CIPHER

Volume 8

By Minako Narita

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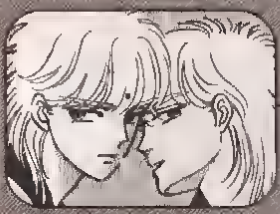
WHO'S WHO IN CIPHER



Siva & Cipher

Siva (Jake) & Cipher (Roy) identical twin brothers made famous by their childhood acting success. They used to share not just a face, but also a single identity. Now that Cipher has moved away to Los Angeles, it's time for the twins to come into their own.

Anise

Schoolmate and good friend of the twins. She was on the verge of taking her relationship with Cipher to a romantic level but it didn't quite work out. Now she has to adjust to Cipher being completely gone from her life and finds herself in the role of watching over his brother.

The Story So Far...

The death of their friend Dane brought about a major turning point in the life of the twins. They decided it was finally time to live apart and try to establish their individual careers and identities. Cipher (Roy) moved to Los Angeles and asked their friend Anise to keep a watchful eye over his brother Siva (Jake).

The twins try to move on in their own way, though both have taken on new roommates. Cipher has moved in with Hal–someone very different from anyone he's known–but who's nevertheless proven to be a good, casual friend. Siva, on the other hand, has met Alex, a model who shares a connection with the late Dane. Siva's relationship with Alex seems to be something more than just a friendship, and it looks as if he is going to fill the role that Cipher once had in Siva's life.

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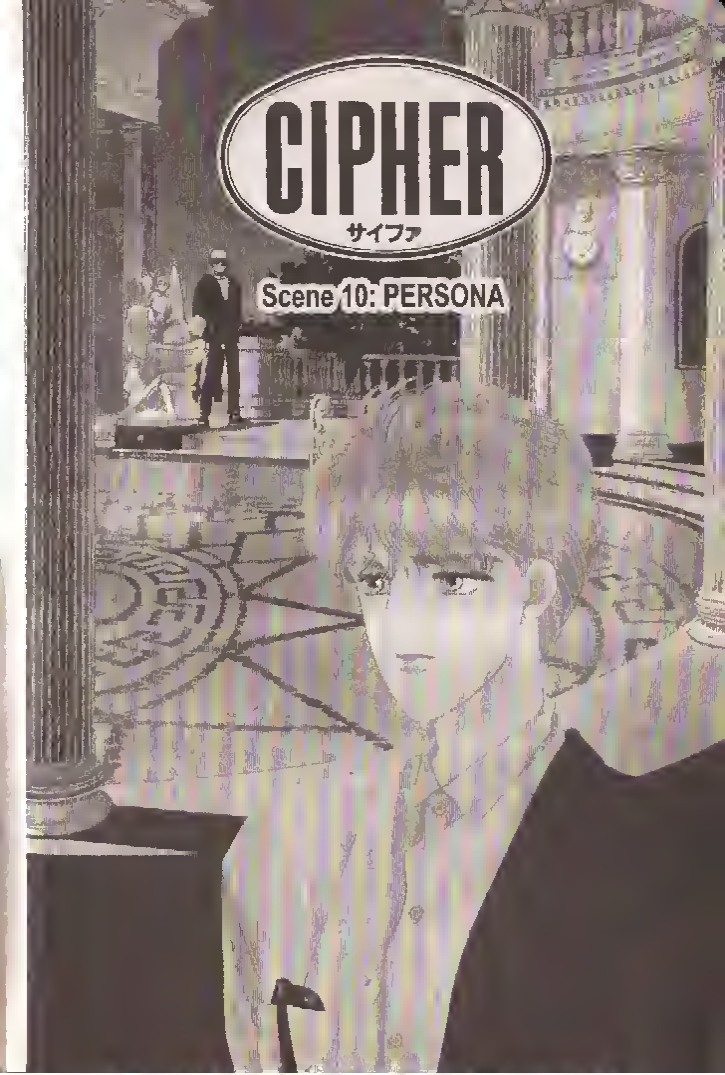

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KICKING SOMEONE IN THE FACE LIKE THAT!
IS THAT HOW YOU TREAT YOUR FRIENDS?!
OH, GIMME A BREAK!
I DIDN'T KICK YOU. I *HIT* YOU.
I *FELT* LIKE I WAS KICKED, SO I WAS KICKED.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW CHILDISH THAT SOUNDS? GROW UP!
THAT WAS REALLY *UNCOOL!*

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WHAT ABOUT ME?!
YOU'RE INFAMOUS ON THIS CAMPUS
ME?! WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
TELL HIM TO GROW UP, YUP SARAH EVERY-DAY.
C'MON, YOU TWO!
ARE YOU ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D TRY SOMETHING AS DANGEROUS AS HACKING.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT!
I WAS JUST PLAYING AROUND WITH ONE OF THE TERMINALS, AND PUNCHED IN THE PASSWORD BY ACCIDENT.
SARAH!
HAL CAN DO ALL KINDS OF INTERESTING THINGS BY ACCIDENT.
HOW DO YOU PUT IN A PASSWORD "BY ACCIDENT?"

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BUT HE WAS JUST FAKING IT UNTIL WE AGREED HE'D LIVE HERE!
But I didn't do anything but cheat!!
YOU'RE ALL SO CRUEL!
... EVERYBODY JUST STOOD THERE AND STARED. NO ONE TRIED TO HELP ME.
EVEN WHEN I WAS LATER SURROUNDED ON CAMPUS BY F.B.I. AGENTS...
AND THIS GUY CHANGED ON ME.
AT FIRST, HE DID THE COOKING AND CLEANING.
OH... THEN WHO'S DOING THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES NOW?
GIMME SOME PIE.
Yes, yes.
HE IS.
TEA, PLEASE.

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EVIL SPIRIT
HAL.
YOU'RE LIKE AN EVIL SPIRIT CURSING ME.
HOW'S THIS FOR ATMOSPHERE?
THAT'S PERFECT.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING ALONG WITH HAL.
WHAT A GREAT TEAM!
ACTUALLY, IT FEELS LIKE THINGS HAVE CHANGED A LITTLE FROM WHEN YOU FIRST MET.
THINK SO?
Sorry to hear that, ahem, hem.

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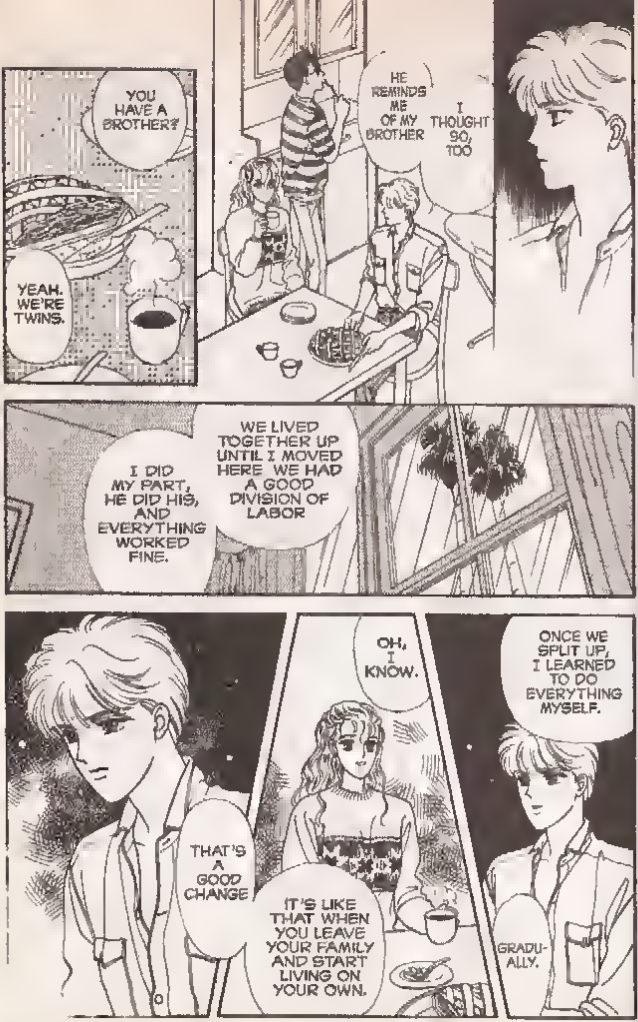
YOU HAVE A BROTHER?
YEAH. WE'RE TWINS.
HE REMINDS ME OF MY BROTHER
I THOUGHT SO, TOO
I DID MY PART, HE DID HIS, AND EVERYTHING WORKED FINE.
WE LIVED TOGETHER UP UNTIL I MOVED HERE. WE HAD A GOOD DIVISION OF LABOR
THAT'S A GOOD CHANGE
OH, I KNOW.
IT'S LIKE THAT WHEN YOU LEAVE YOUR FAMILY AND START LIVING ON YOUR OWN.
ONCE WE SPLIT UP, I LEARNED TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF.
GRADU-ALLY.

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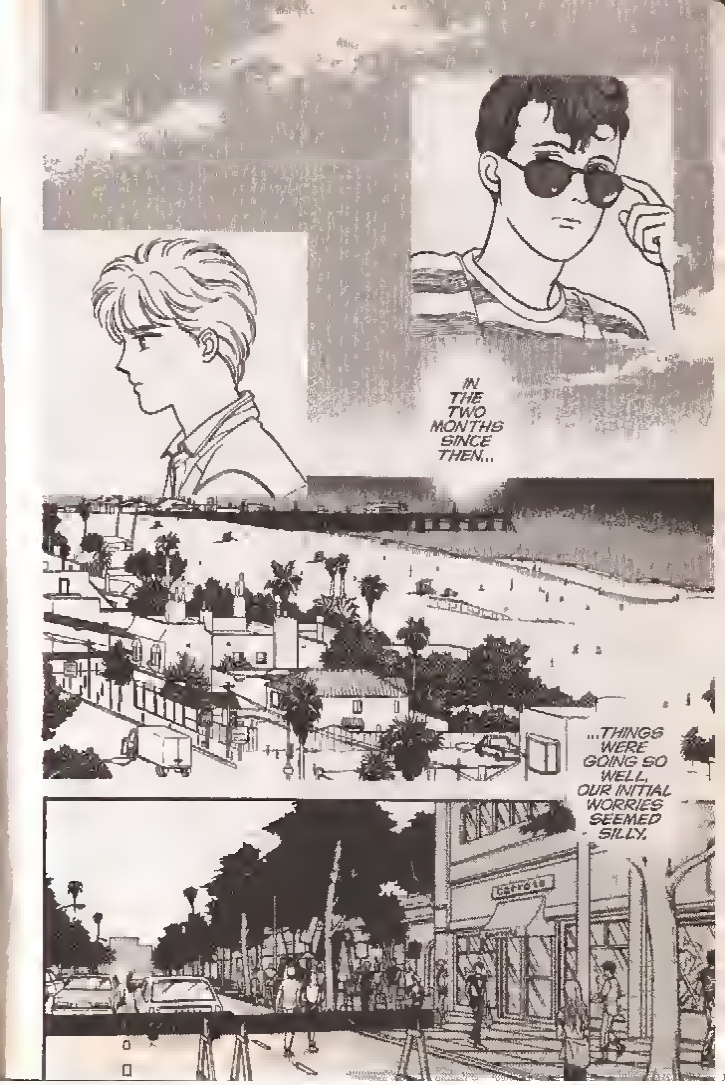

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ANIME REALLY IS ANIME, IF YOU ONLY LOOK TO SEE IF IT'S LIKE THE ORIGINAL MANGA THEN OF COURSE IT NEVER IS. BUT YOU CAN ALSO APPRECIATE THE GOOD PARTS OF ANIME. THE THINGS ONLY ANIME CAN DO. BECAUSE IT MOVES! SEEING CYPHER PLAY FOOTBALL OR RYJI MOVE HIS EYES LOOKS SO FRESH!

AND THERE'S EVEN SOUND! FOR ME WHO REALLY REGRETS THAT MANGA DOESN'T HAVE SOUND I ABSOLUTE LOVE SEEING IT WHEN THE SOUND MATCHES SO PERFECTLY TO THE IMAGE. I WAS SO EXCITED WHEN I HEARD THAT THE THOMPSON TWINS WHO I LOVE SO MUCH HAD LET US USE A SONG, I NEARLY FAINTED.

I WROTE ABOUT MY DREAMS OF THE THOMPSON TWINS IN VOLUME 6. BUT SINCE THEN THERE HASN'T BEEN MUCH NEWS.

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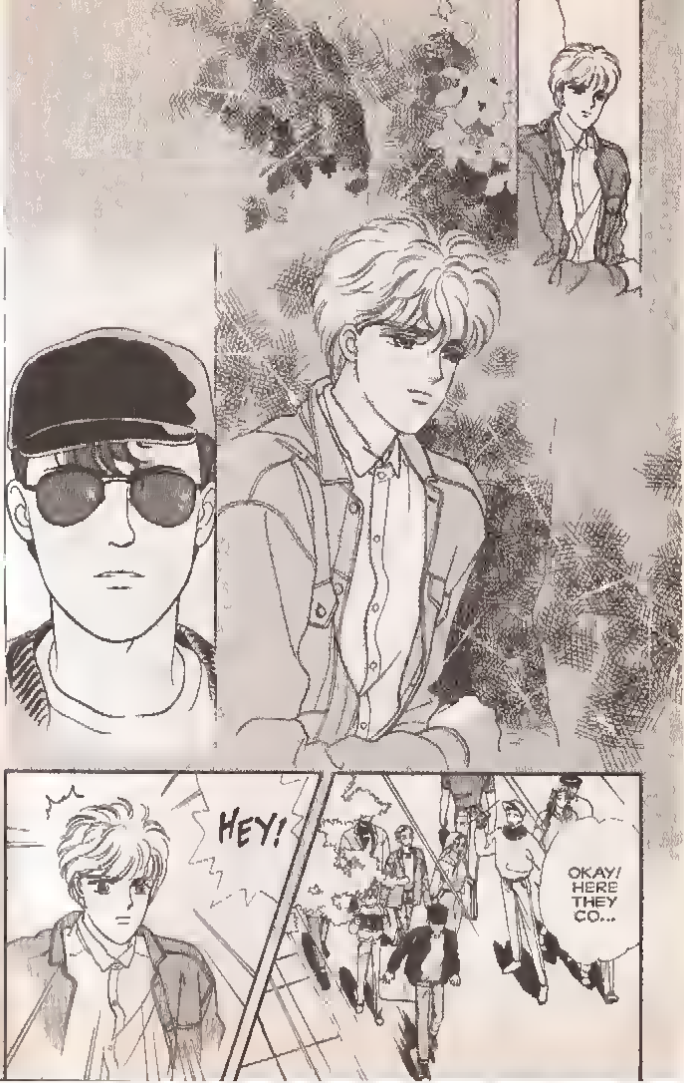

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WHAT'S UP, HAL?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHY AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL?
OH.
SCHOOL'S FINISHED ALREADY.
REALLY? IS IT THAT LATE?
WE'VE GOT AN EVENING SHOOT AFTER THIS, SO I WON'T BE HOME TILL LATE.
HAVE DINNER BY YOUR-SELF.

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YOU SEEM TO BE TAKING ON AN AWFUL LOT.
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE WORK, BUT AREN'T YOU DOING TOO MUCH?
I'M IN NO POSITION TO CHOOSE.
YOU LOOK A LITTLE TIRED.
.....
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THANKS FOR ASKING, THOUGH.
WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, I'LL HAVE A WEEK OFF.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ABOUT HIM?

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WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S LIKE?
ABOUT HIS PERSONALITY.
WHO DO YOU MEAN?
ROY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT DO I THINK?"
HE'S OUTGOING AND FRIENDLY...
AND HE'S GOT A PRETTY SINCERE WAY OF EXPRESSING HIMSELF.
WELL...
BUT HE CAN ALSO BE PRETTY TOUGH.
I'D HEARD HE WAS REALLY CONSIDERATE TO OTHERS...
YES, PROBABLY.
SINCERE
LIKE HIS STRESS DOESN'T BUILD UP?

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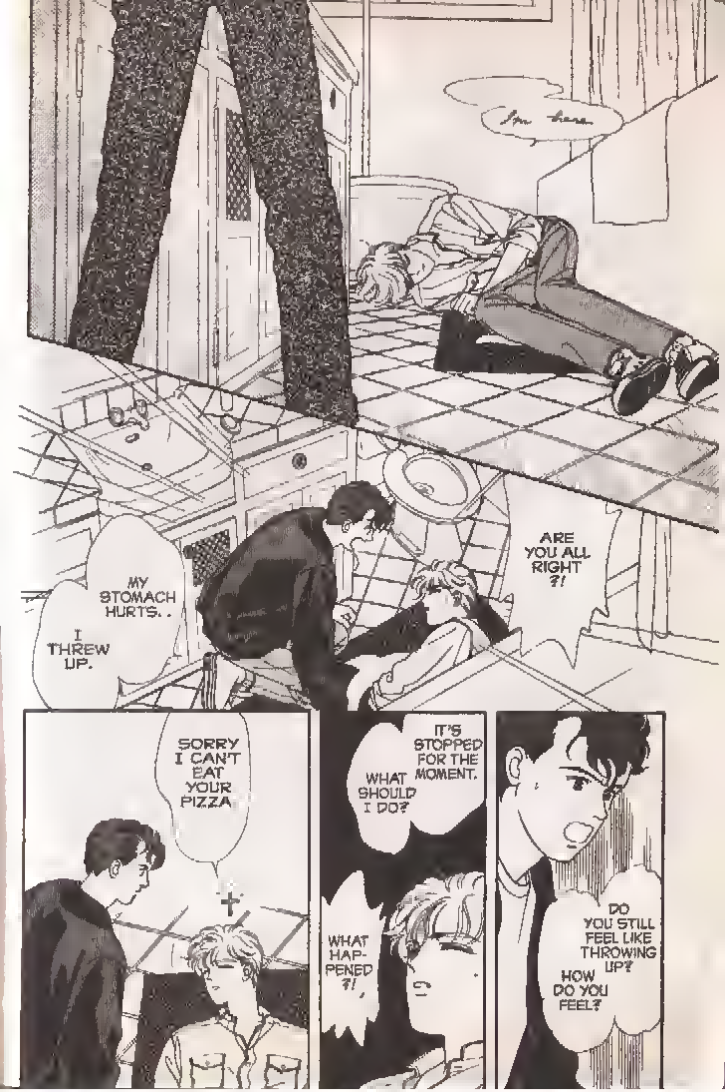
I'm here
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
MY STOMACH HURTS. . I THREW UP.
SORRY I CAN'T EAT YOUR PIZZA
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
IT'S STOPPED FOR THE MOMENT.
WHAT HAP-PENED?!
DO YOU STILL FEEL LIKE THROWING UP?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?

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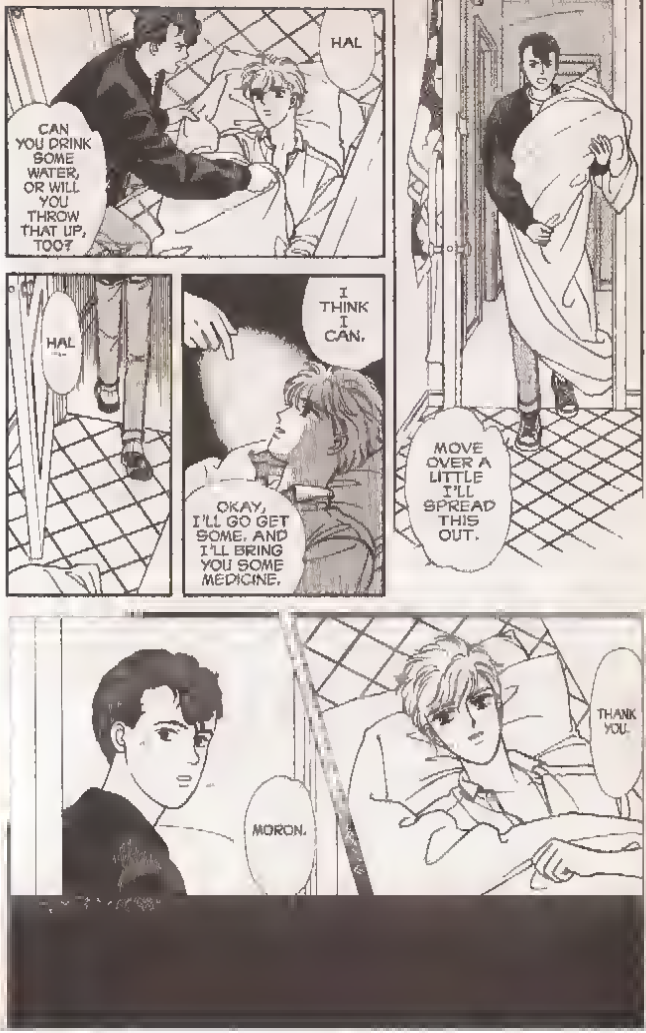
HAL
CAN YOU DRINK SOME WATER, OR WILL YOU THROW THAT UP, TOO?
MOVE OVER A LITTLE I'LL SPREAD THIS OUT.
HAL
I THINK I CAN.
OKAY, I'LL GO GET SOME. AND I'LL BRING YOU SOME MEDICINE.
MORON.
THANK YOU.

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ROY?
TIME FOR YOUR MEDICINE.
UH ...
I USED IT A FEW TIMES WHILE YOU'VE BEEN IN HERE.
CAN YOU EAT THIS?
YOU GOTTA GET SOMETHING IN YOUR STOMACH.
IT'S GOOD ...
THERE YOU GO.
SORRY TO HOG THE BATHROOM
IS IT A PROBLEM?
NO.
YOU SLEPT LIKE THE DEAD, SO YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T NOTICE.
GET SOME MORE SLEEP.

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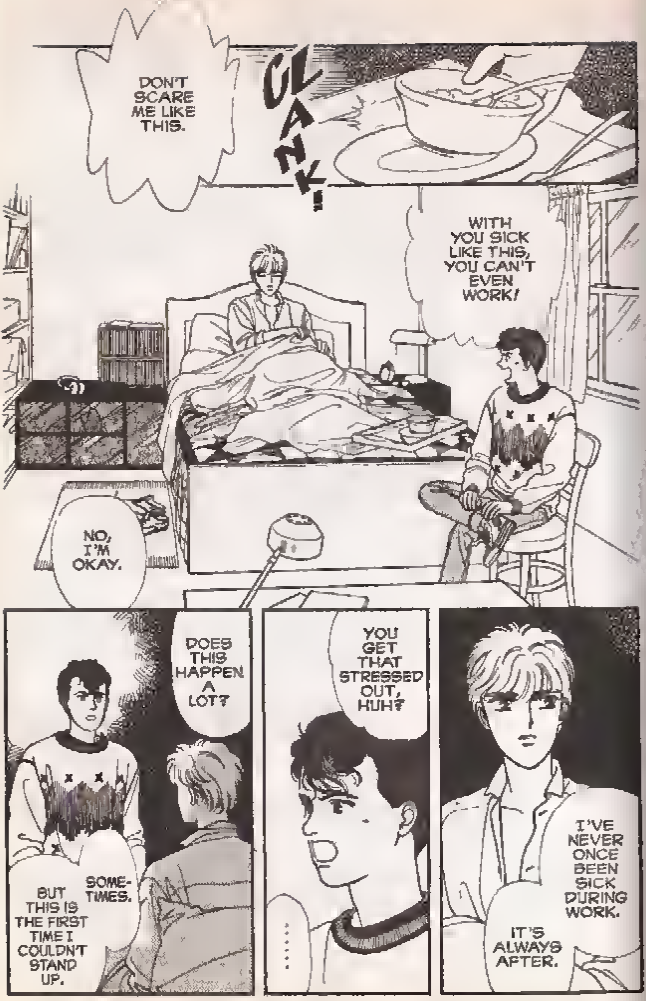
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THIS.
CLANK!
WITH YOU SICK LIKE THIS, YOU CAN'T EVEN WORK!
NO, I'M OKAY.
DOES THIS HAPPEN A LOT?
SOME-TIMES.
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I COULDN'T STAND UP.
YOU GET THAT STRESSED OUT, HUH?
.....
I'VE NEVER ONCE BEEN SICK DURING WORK.
IT'S ALWAYS AFTER.

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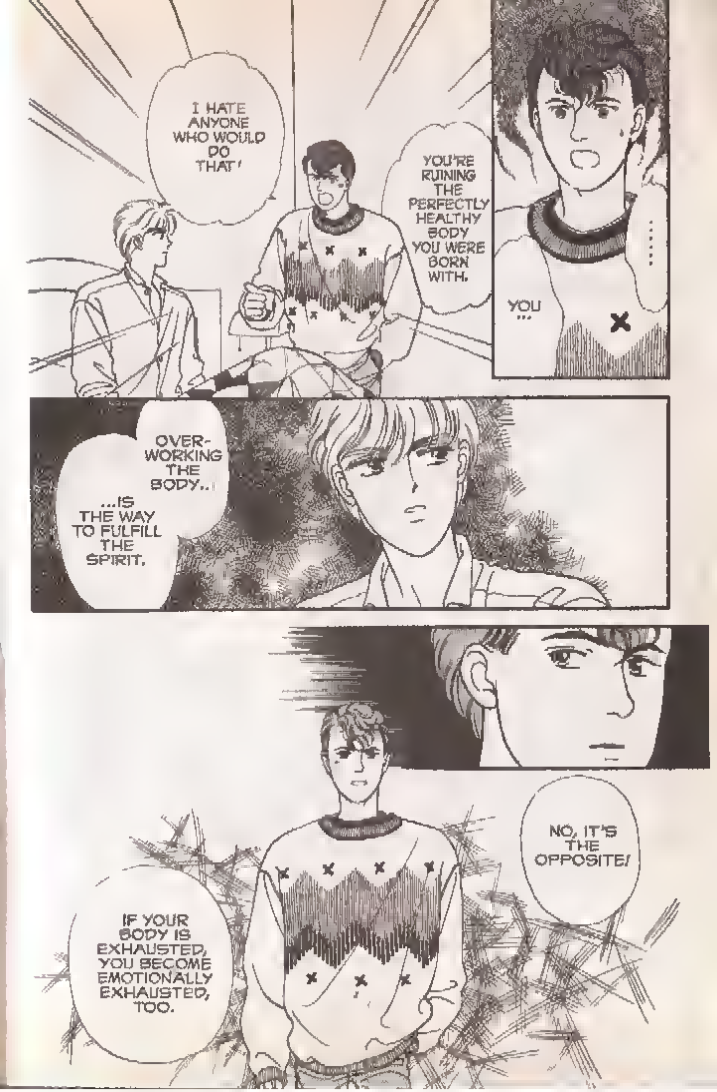
I HATE ANYONE WHO WOULD DO THAT!
YOU'RE RUINING THE PERFECTLY HEALTHY BODY YOU WERE BORN WITH.
YOU ...
OVER-WORKING THE BODY..
...IS THE WAY TO FULFILL THE SPIRIT.
NO, IT'S THE OPPOSITE!
IF YOUR BODY IS EXHAUSTED, YOU BECOME EMOTIONALLY EXHAUSTED, TOO.

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YOU GOTTA BUILD UP YOUR BODY, DUDE!
I'M SORRY..
YOU GOTTA COMPLETELY RETHINK WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
I CAN'T HAVE YOU GETTING SICK LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME
WE'RE GOING SKIING THIS WEEKEND!

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WHAT'S WITH YOU?
YOU PLAN TO SKI LIKE THAT?
COMPLETELY ORDINARY CLOTHES
GOOD THING IT'S SO CLEAR!
I HATE THE MOUNTAINS WHEN IT'S SNOWING.
IT WON'T SNOW ANY MORE IT'S MELTING NOW
WHAT GREAT WEATHER!
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT LOOKS WEIRD
I DON'T HAVE ANY SKIWEAR
TOTALLY FAMOUS DESIGNER OUTFIT
.....
WHY?

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THAT SOUNDS STUPID.
YOU GOTTA DRESS THE PART.
THE SLOPES ARE LIKE A STAGE.
I GUESS I DRESSED A LITTLE TOO CONSERVATIVELY.
HAVEN'T YOU EVER GONE SKIING BEFORE?
YEAH, BUT...

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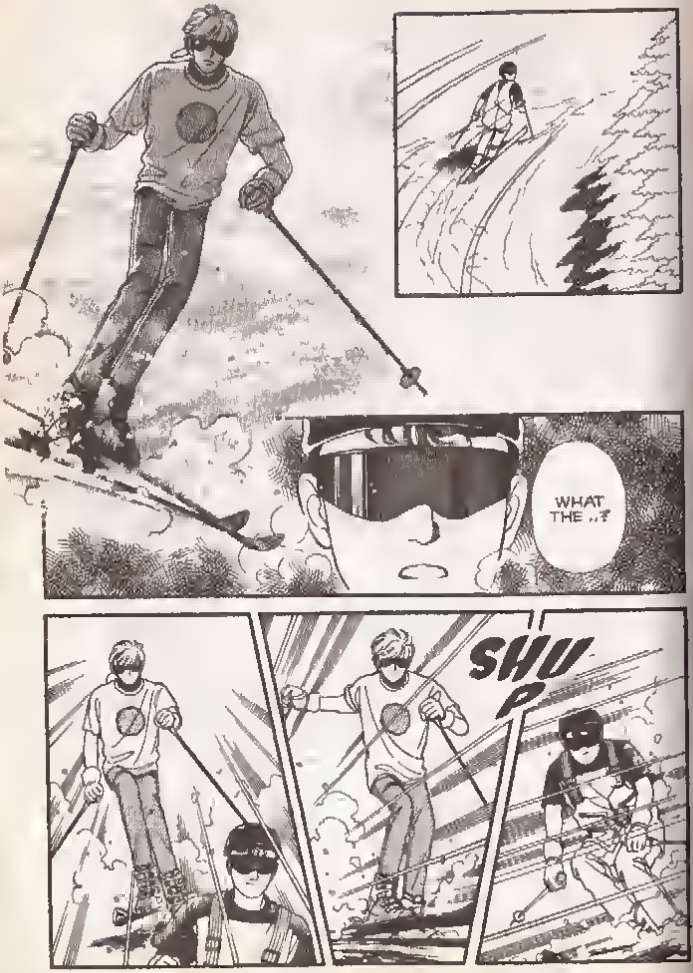

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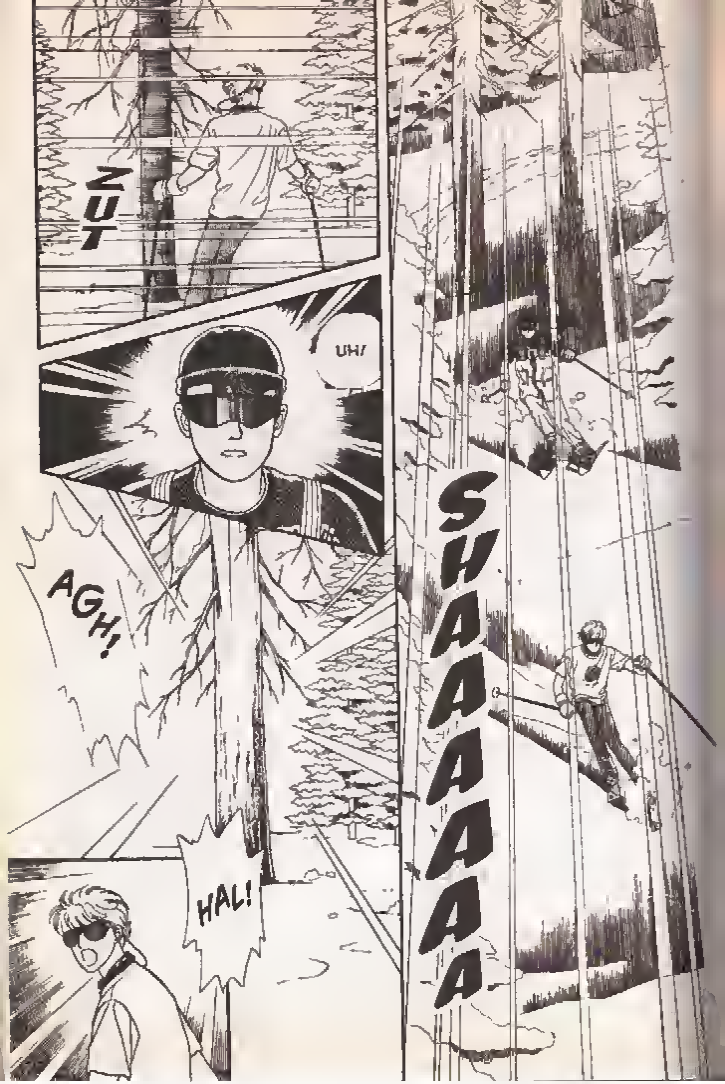

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I'M DEAD
SIGH
I USED TO GO TO THE MOUNTAINS A LOT.
IN NEW YORK, IT EVEN SNOWS ON THE FLAT-LANDS.
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THIS.
I LOVE HOW YOU CAN SEE YOUR TRACKS IN THE SNOW.
DIDN'T YOU EVER HORSE AROUND WITH YOUR FRIENDS IN WINTER?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU NEVER EVEN DID THAT?!
?

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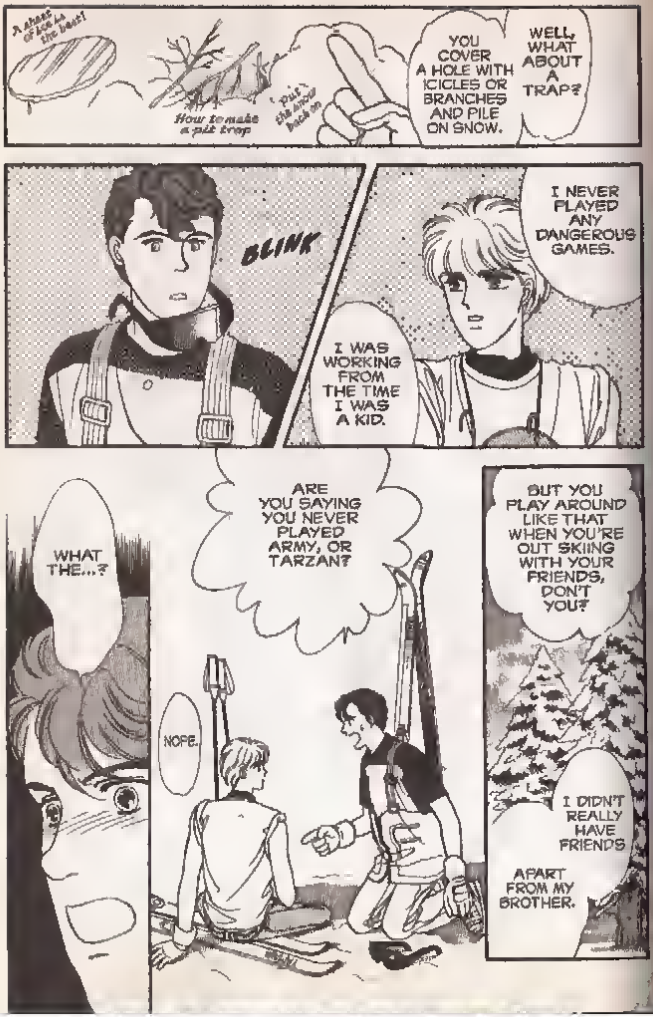
A shape of ice in the trail!
How to make a pit trap
I put the arrow back in
YOU COVER A HOLE WITH ICICLES OR BRANCHES AND PILE ON SNOW.
WELL, WHAT ABOUT A TRAP?
BLINK
I NEVER PLAYED ANY DANGEROUS GAMES.
I WAS WORKING FROM THE TIME I WAS A KID.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU NEVER PLAYED ARMY, OR TARZAN?
BUT YOU PLAY AROUND LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE OUT SKIING WITH YOUR FRIENDS, DON'T YOU?
WHAT THE...?
NOPE.
I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE FRIENDS APART FROM MY BROTHER.

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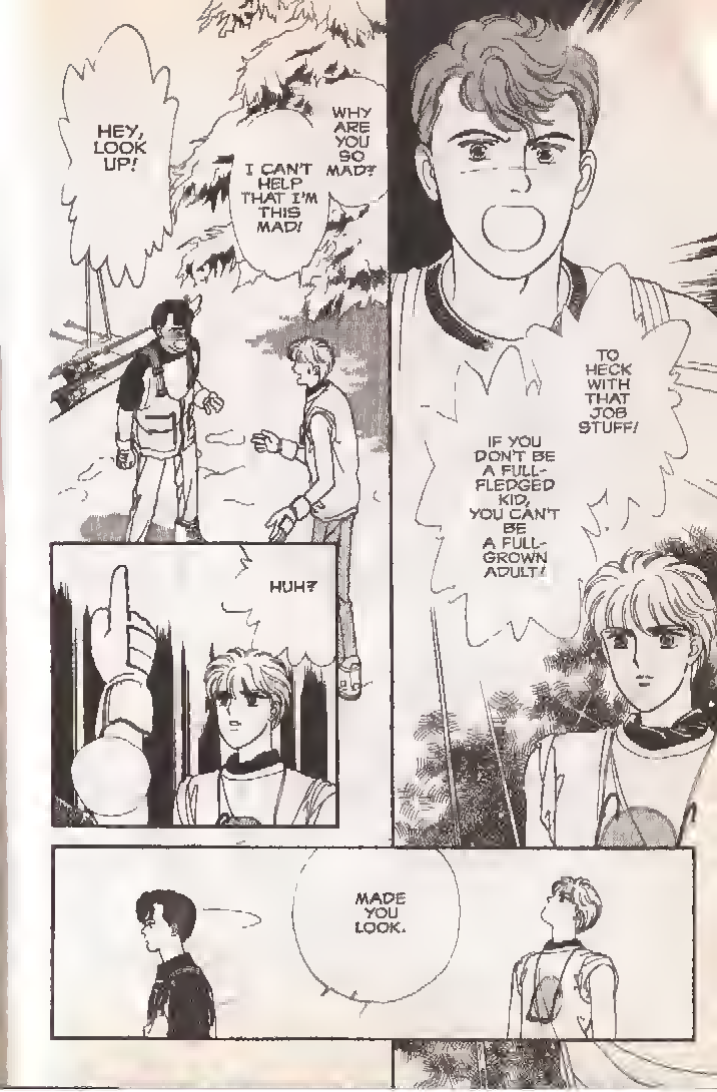
HEY, LOOK UP!
I CAN'T HELP THAT I'M THIS MAD!
WHY ARE YOU SO MAD?
HUH?
IF YOU DON'T BE A FULL-FLEDGED KID, YOU CAN'T BE A FULL-GROWN ADULT!
TO HECK WITH THAT JOB STUFF!
MADE YOU LOOK.

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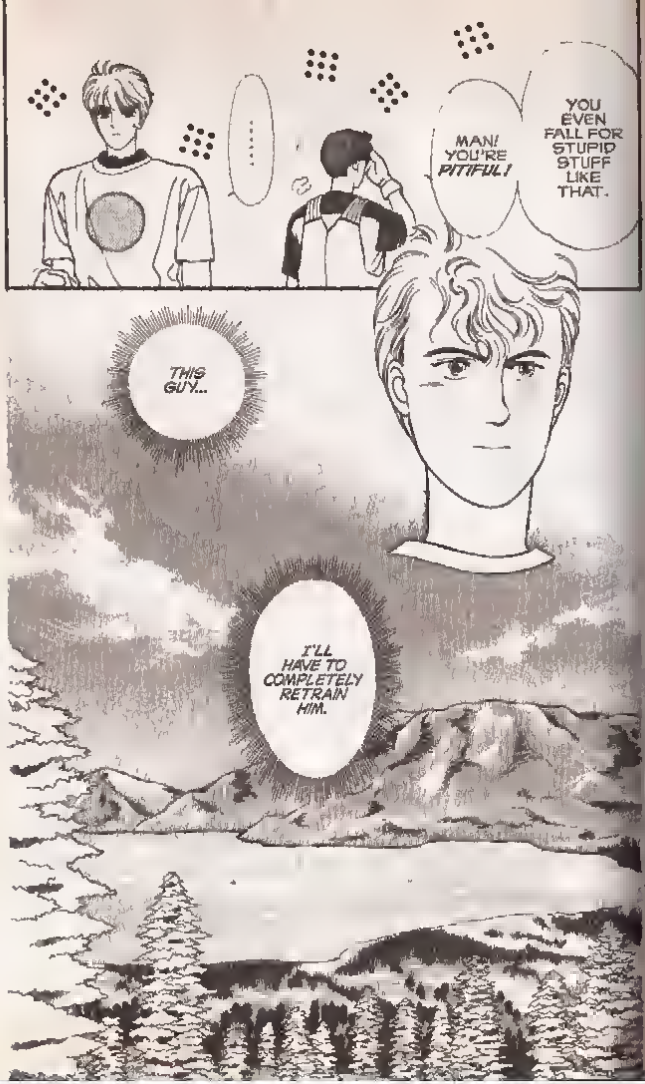

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YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!
OKAY! THE WEEKEND IS HERE, AND IT'S TIME TO PARTY!
UH... OKAY.
NOW THEN! YOU GET IN AND DRIVE!
.....
Has to do what he's told since he's a kid.
WHERE ARE WE GOING THIS TIME?
TO THE SPORTS CLUB?
SLAM
WHO WANTS TO LIFT DUMB-BELLS IN A STUFFY ROOM?
Tch!

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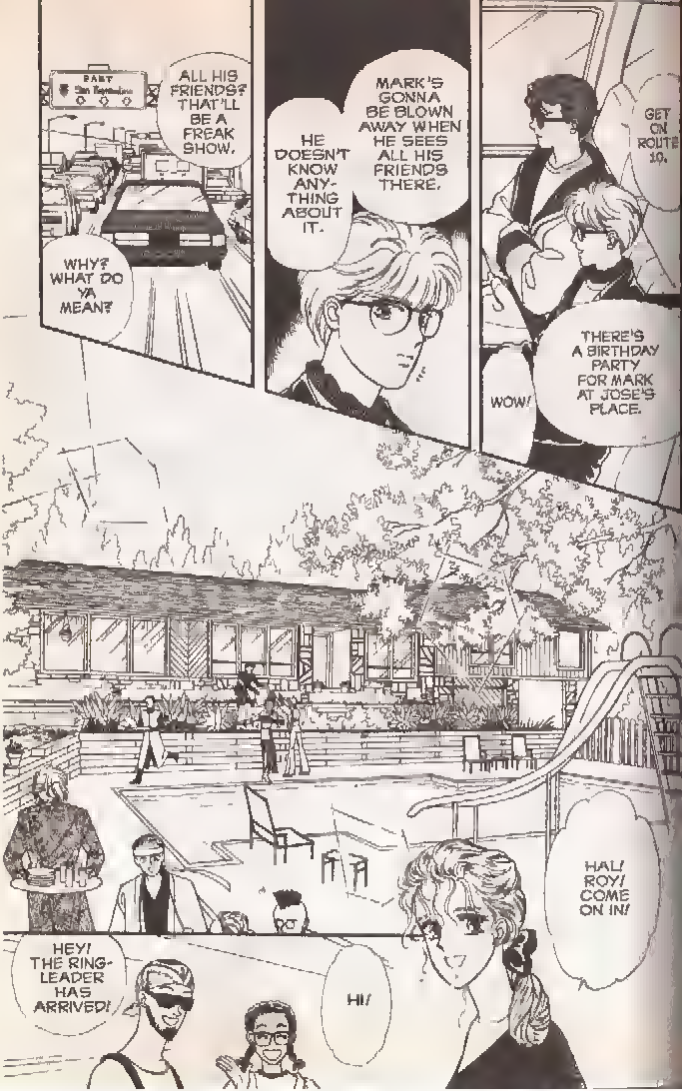
ALL HIS FRIENDS? THAT'LL BE A FREAK SHOW.
WHY? WHAT DO YA MEAN?
HE DOESN'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT IT.
MARK'S GONNA BE BLOWN AWAY WHEN HE SEES ALL HIS FRIENDS THERE.
GET ON ROUTE 10.
WOW!
THERE'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR MARK AT JOSE'S PLACE.
HEY! THE RING-LEADER HAS ARRIVED!
HI!
HA! ROY! COME ON IN!

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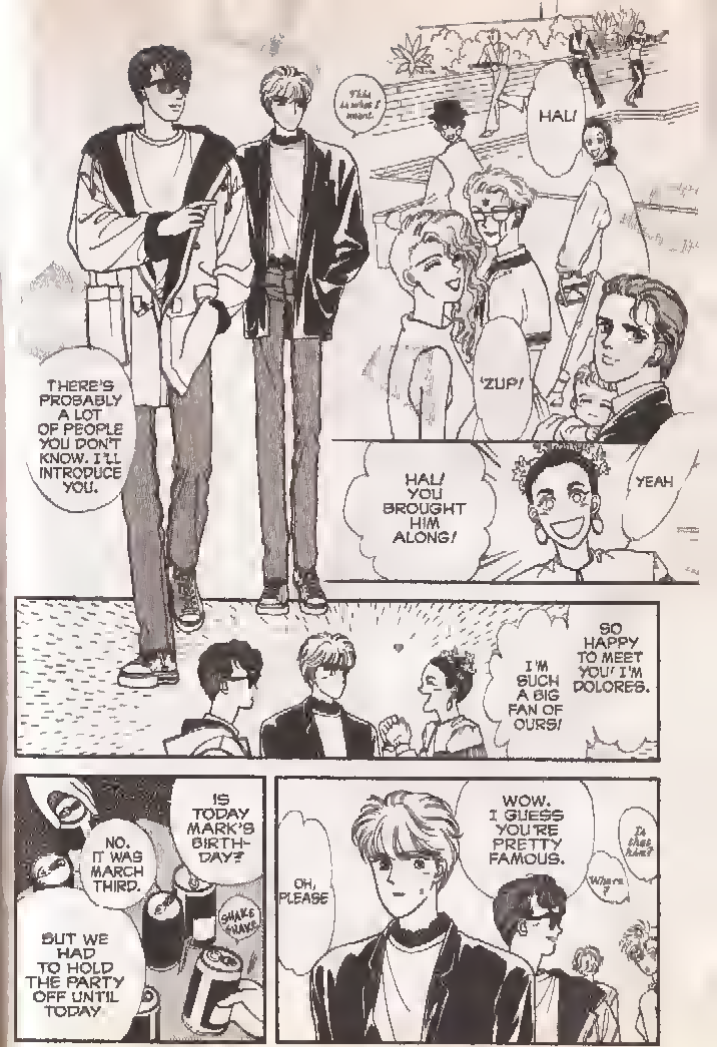
THERE'S PROBABLY A LOT OF PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
HAL!
'ZUP!
HAL! YOU BROUGHT HIM ALONG!
YEAH
I'M SUCH A BIG FAN OF OURS!
SO HAPPY TO MEET YOU! I'M DOLORES.
IS TODAY MARK'S BIRTH-DAY?
NO. IT WAS MARCH THIRD.
SHAKE SHAKE
BUT WE HAD TO HOLD THE PARTY OFF UNTIL TODAY.
OH, PLEASE
WOW. I GUESS YOU'RE PRETTY FAMOUS.
Is that him?
Who's?

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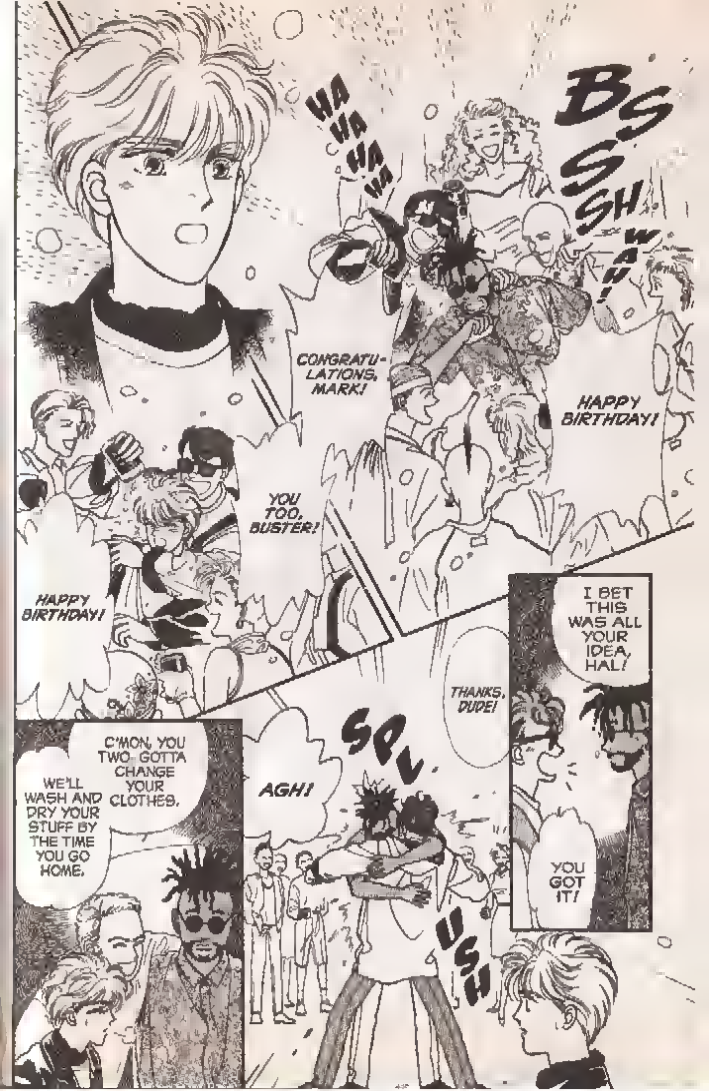

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IT'S A LITTLE OLD SCHOOL, BUT LET'S MAKE IT A TOGA PARTY.
LET'S GO WITH IT!
We've got plenty for everybody.
GOOD ONE, ROY-MEDEUS.
OKAY, MARK-AMEDES.
Sheets
NOW IT MAKES SENSE.
I THINK I SEE HOW HE WRECKED HIS SHED ON HALLOWEEN.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
LET'S DANCE, MARK!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I DANCED.
DO YOU LIKE IT?
OF COURSE!

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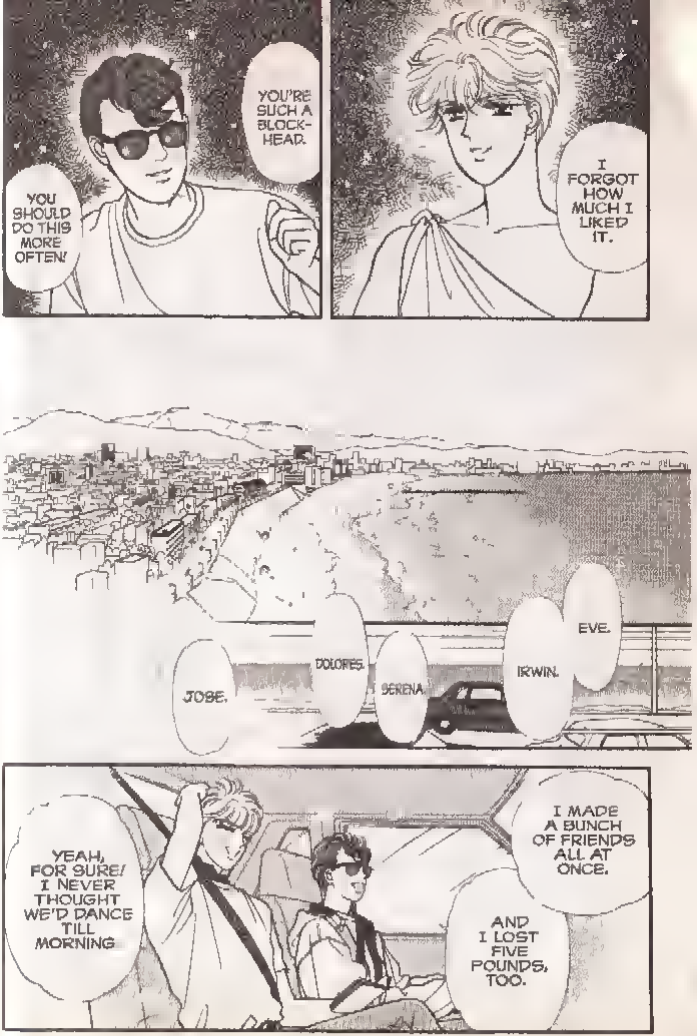
YOU'RE SUCH A BLOCK-HEAD.
YOU SHOULD DO THIS MORE OFTEN!
I FORGOT HOW MUCH I LIKED IT.
EVE.
DOLORES.
IRWIN.
JOBE.
SERENA.
I MADE A BUNCH OF FRIENDS ALL AT ONCE.
YEAH, FOR SURE! I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D DANCE TILL MORNING.
AND I LOST FIVE POUNDS, TOO.

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SCREECH
I'VE NEVER BEEN SWIMMING IN THE OCEAN.
WANNA GO FOR A SWIM? THAT'LL BURN SOME MORE CALORIES.
THERE'S ALREADY SOME PEOPLE OUT THERE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
C'MON!
SURE, WHY NOT?!
WHAT ...YOU MEAN RIGHT NOW?!
I DON'T HAVE A SWIM-SUIT!
THEN YOU CAN JUST SWIM NAKED, CAN'T YA?

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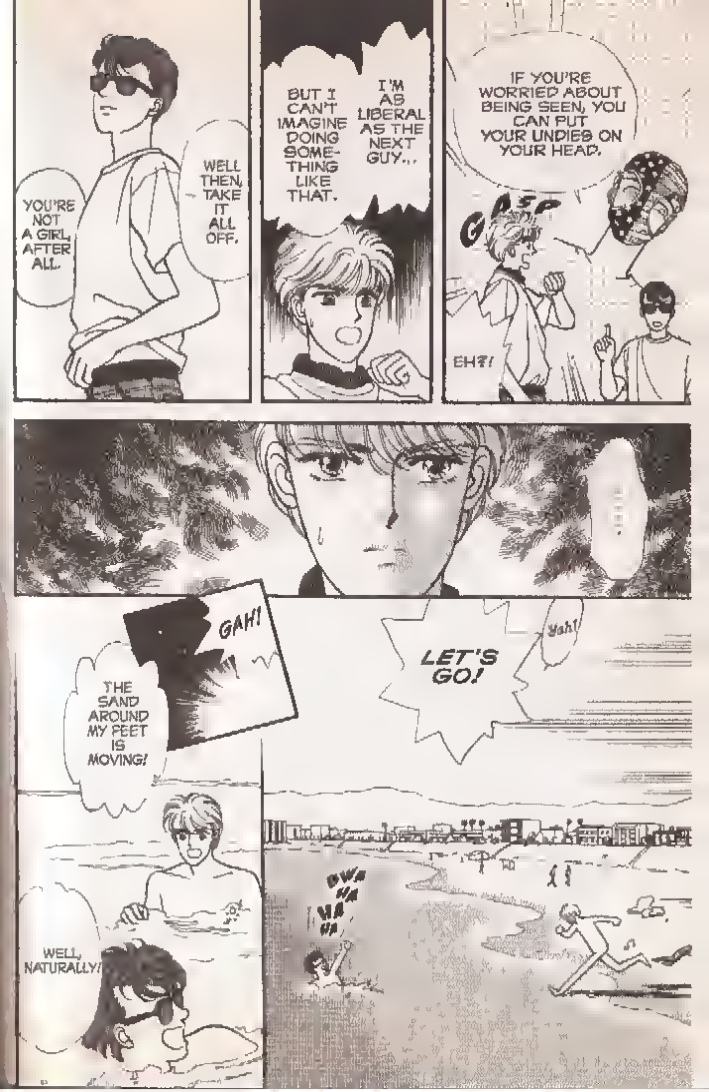
YOU'RE NOT A GIRL, AFTER ALL.
WELL THEN, TAKE IT ALL OFF.
BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE DOING SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
I'M AS LIBERAL AS THE NEXT GUY...
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT BEING SEEN, YOU CAN PUT YOUR UNDIES ON YOUR HEAD.
GASP
EH?!
GAH!
THE SAND AROUND MY FEET IS MOVING!
WELL, NATURALLY!
LET'S GO!
Yah!
DUN DUN DUN

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YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE SO SALTY.
YOU TELL ME THAT FIRST.
THE THINGS YOU USUALLY DO...
THERE MUST BE LOTS.
WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU NEVER DONE?
HOW ABOUT THAT?
JUST HANGING OUT AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE.
HM...
NOT PARTIES SO MUCH.
SCRATCH SCRATCH

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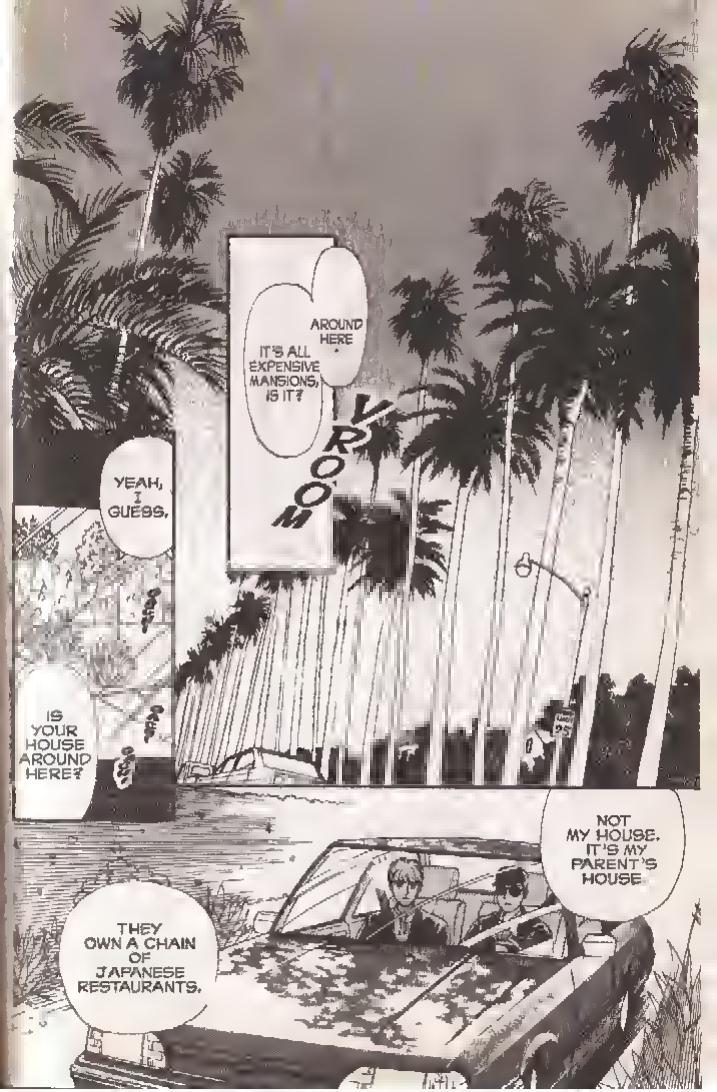
AROUND HERE
IT'S ALL EXPENSIVE MANSIONS, IS IT?
VROOM
YEAH, I GUESS.
IS YOUR HOUSE AROUND HERE?
NOT MY HOUSE. IT'S MY PARENT'S HOUSE.
THEY OWN A CHAIN OF JAPANESE RESTAURANTS.

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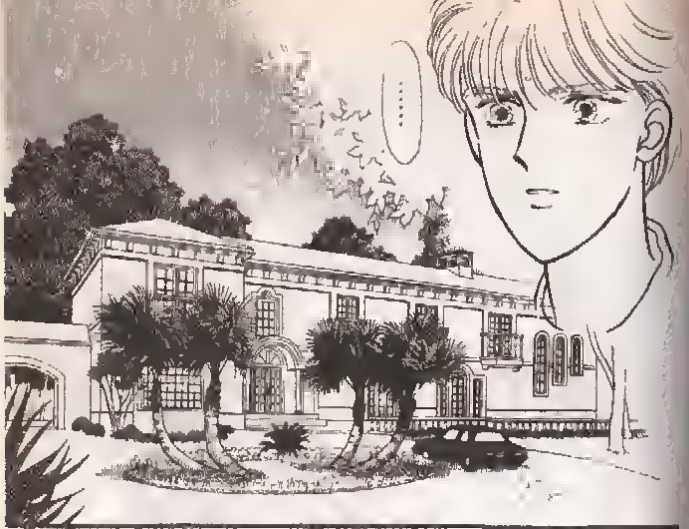

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THIS IS MY MOTHER
THIS IS MY NEW ROOMMATE, ROY RANG.
HOW DO YOU DO?
OH.
DON'T CALL HER AN OLD BAT, HAL.
HEY, MOM.
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
FINE.
WELCOME BACK!
HAL!
YOU LOOK SO CUTE WHEN YOU'RE TALKING TO YOUR MOM.
SHUT UP!
GO SAY HI TO YOUR FATHER.
AH, WHAT FOR? I'LL SEE HIM AT DINNER, WON'T I?
I'M CATHY! PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
OH, WOW! IT'S THE REAL CIPHER!

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NEW MINNIE SHOW
EVEN YOU'VE SEEN HIM, HAVEN'T YOU?
ON THE MINNIE SHOW! AND HE WAS ONE OF THE BURTON TWINS!
IS HE REALLY THAT FAMOUS?
OF COURSE! DON'T YOU KNOW?
UH...
HEY!
THAT WAS YOU?!
YOU KNOW IT?
SURE, I KNOW IT! THE BURTON FAMILY TWINS!
THEY WERE REAL BRATS!
I COPIED THAT IN OUR OWN YARD!
YOU HAD A TREE HOUSE!
IT'S STILL UP BACK THERE.

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WOW!
REALLY? I NEVER KNEW THAT.
MINE WAS BUILT IN A STUDIO.
MAN! YOU EVEN HAVE A LAMP!
BUT I CAN'T REALLY USE IT. IT DRAWS INSECTS.
I hate bugs

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I NEVER REALIZED YOU WORKED SO DILIGENTLY SINCE YOU WERE A KID.
NOW I SEE HOW YOU HAVE SO MUCH MONEY.
YOU...
...ONLY STOP ACTING WHEN YOU ARE HOME.
GIVE ME A COME-BACK, AT LEAST!
HEY, I'M TALKING TO YOU!
DON'T TRY TO TAKE ON TOO MUCH ALONE.
AT LEAST NOT SO MUCH THAT IT WEARS YOU OUT.
YOU KNOW, HAL ...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU SPEND SO MUCH TIME TELLING ME WHAT TO DO.

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DAD'S ANGRY!
BIG BROTH-ER!
THAT'S WHAT I DON'T UNDER-STAND ABOUT YOU!
HOW COME YOU DON'T JUST TRUST THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING, HARUOMI ?!
YOU SHOULD HAVE COME TO ME FIRST THING YOU GOT HOME!
YOU STARTED PLAYING AROUND WITHOUT EVEN GREETING YOUR FATHER!
Earplugs

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THE VOICE OF ELLIE IN THE ANIME SOUNDS JUST LIKE THE REAL CAT ELLIE I HAVE AT HOME. SAM AND CIPHER'S LINES HAVE ENGLISH SUBTITLES. (IT WAS A WILD COINCIDENCE THAT THE GUY WHO VOICED THEM WAS NAMED JAKE!) THE TITLE WAS CIPHER, BUT SAM TURNED OUT TO BE THE MAIN CHARACTER. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, PLEASE GIVE IT A LOOK.

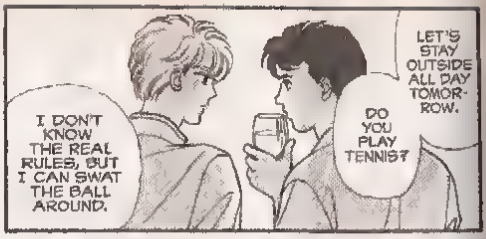
× × ×

ONE MORE THING, TO ALL OF YOU OUT THERE READING THIS WHILE PREPARING FOR YOUR SCHOOL EXAMS OR LYING IN HOSPITAL BEDS...

HANG IN THERE!

See You Again.

1998 HALLOWEEN



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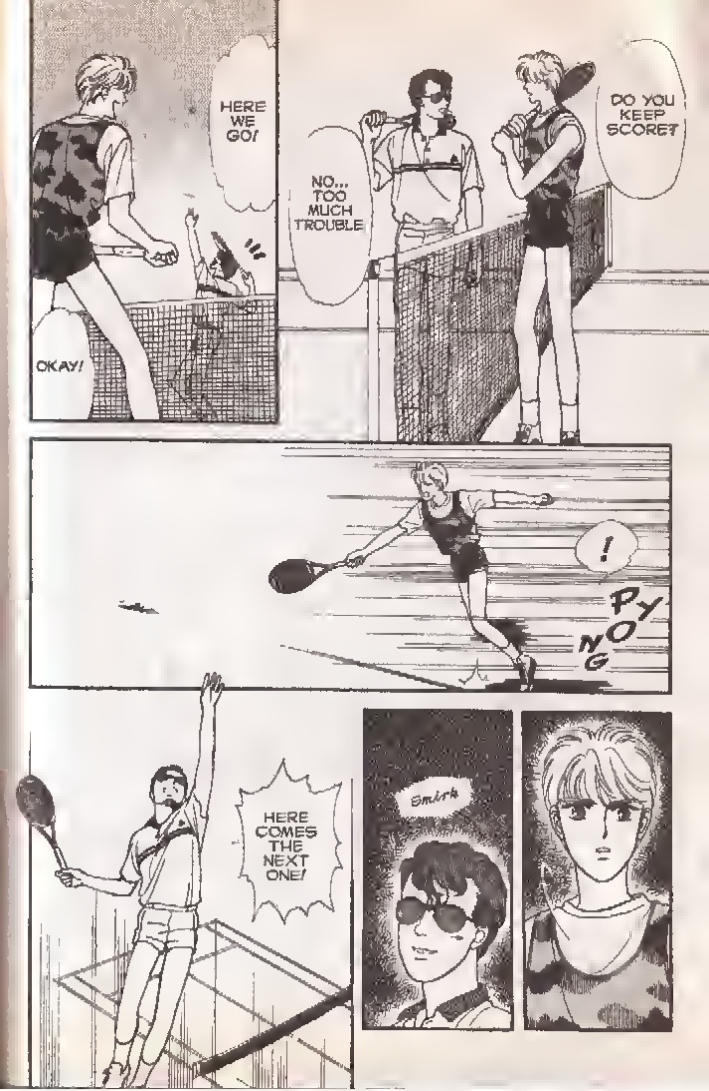

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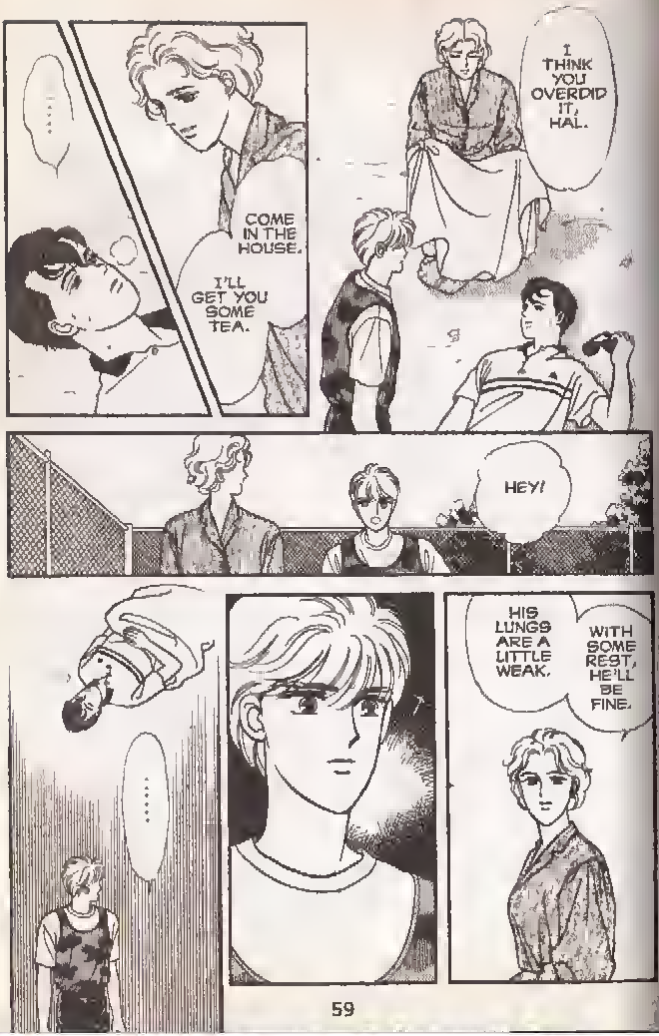

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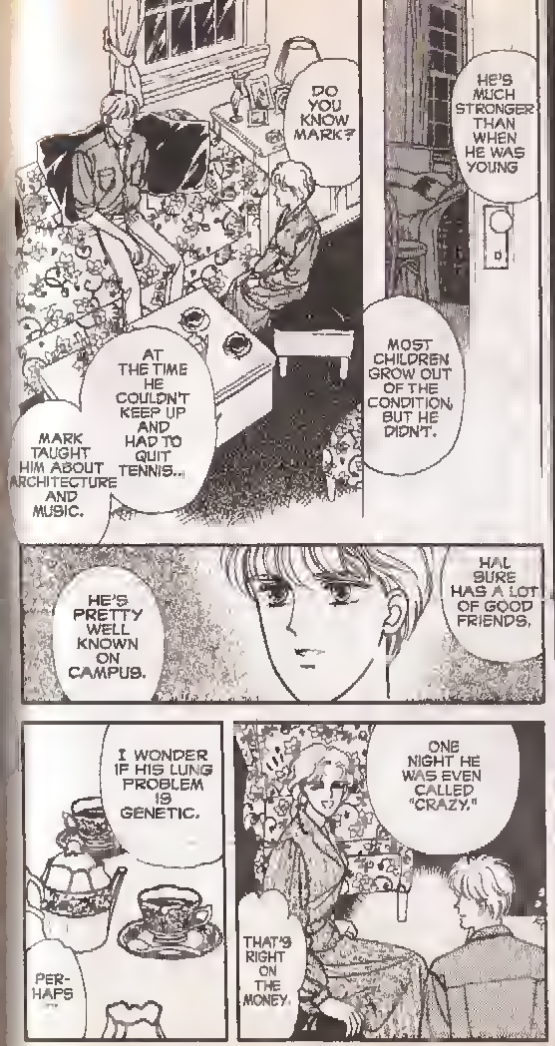
DO YOU KNOW MARK?
HE'S MUCH STRONGER THAN WHEN HE WAS YOUNG
MOST CHILDREN GROW OUT OF THE CONDITION, BUT HE DIDN'T.
AT THE TIME HE COULDN'T KEEP UP AND HAD TO QUIT TENNIS...
MARK TAUGHT HIM ABOUT ARCHITECTURE AND MUSIC.
HE'S PRETTY WELL KNOWN ON CAMPUS.
HAL SURE HAS A LOT OF GOOD FRIENDS.
I WONDER IF HIS LUNG PROBLEM IS GENETIC.
PER-HAPS
ONE NIGHT HE WAS EVEN CALLED "CRAZY."
THAT'S RIGHT ON THE MONEY.

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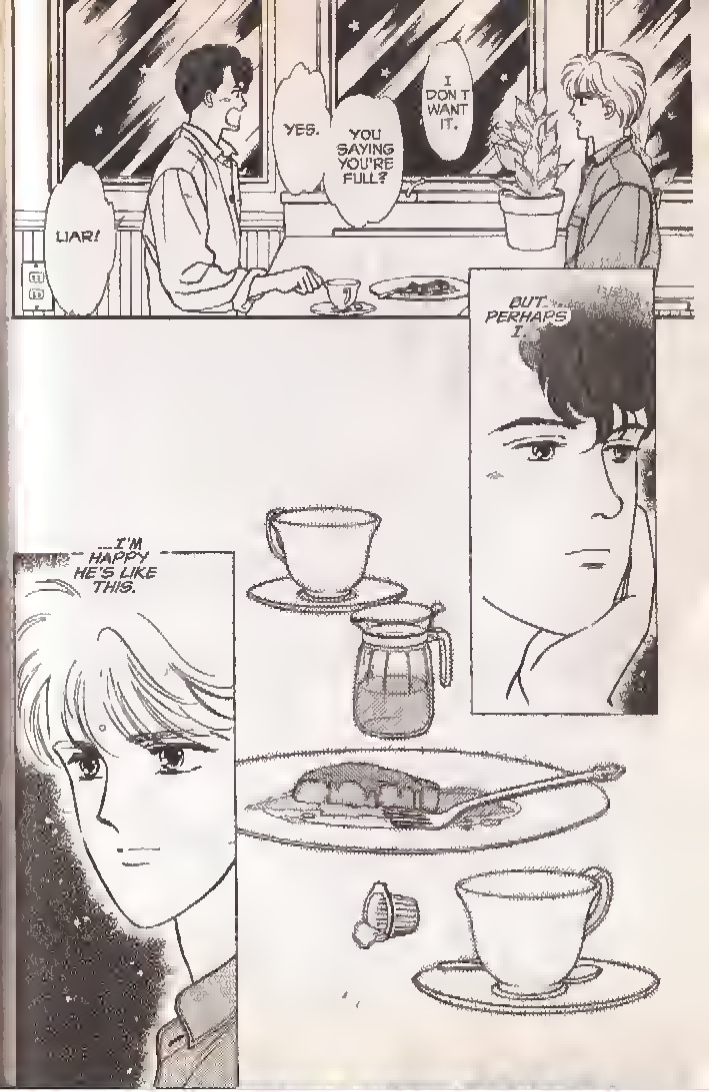

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HOW COME?
I DON'T WANT TO SEE PICTURES OF MYSELF.
KNOCK IT OFF.
Books Kinokuniya, Level 3/C
BECAUSE I LOOK LIKE A GIRL.
HERE IT IS!
BEAUTY IS BEYOND GENDER.
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT THAT.
What...
...does that mean?

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CIPHER

サイファ

Scene 10: PERSONA

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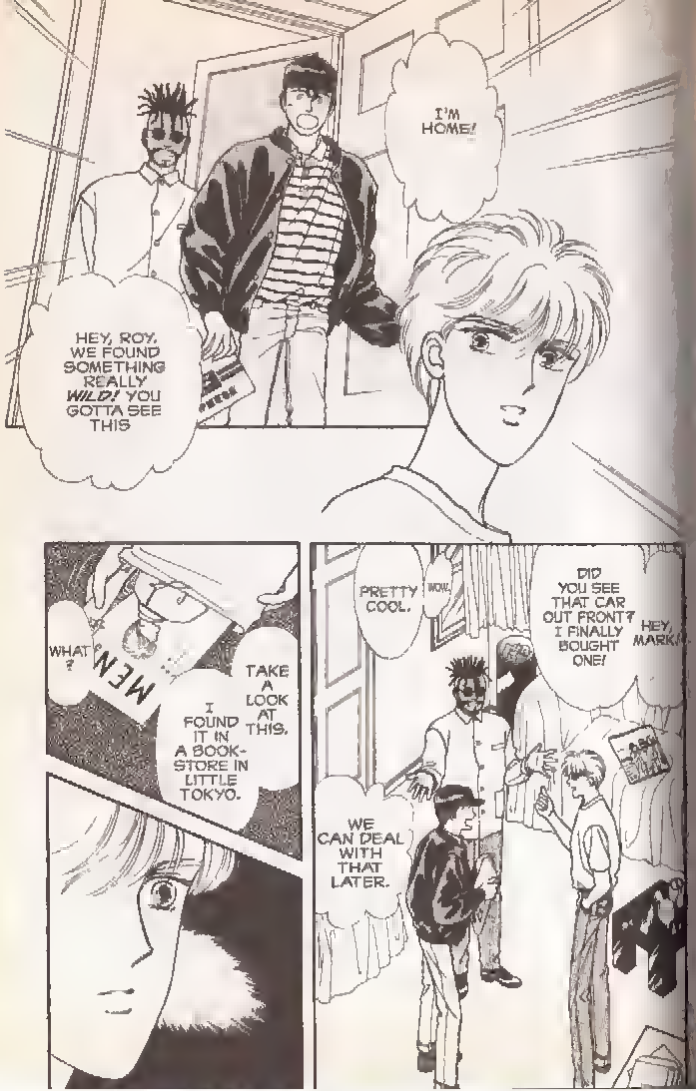
I'M HOME!
HEY, ROY, WE FOUND SOMETHING REALLY WILD! YOU GOTTA SEE THIS
MEN
WHAT?
I FOUND IT IN A BOOK-STORE IN LITTLE TOKYO.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
PRETTY COOL.
WOW.
DID YOU SEE THAT CAR OUT FRONT? I FINALLY BOUGHT ONE!
HEY, MARK!
WE CAN DEAL WITH THAT LATER.

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THERE'S MORE INSIDE.
MEN'S
SO IT ISN'T YOU.
IS THAT YOUR TWIN BROTHER?
THAT'S... JAKE!
THE LOCATION IS NEW YORK.
AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU BEFORE YOU CAME TO L.A., BUT SOMEHOW IT SEEMED DIFFERENT.
WHEN I COUNTED BACK, I FIGURED IT MUST HAVE BEEN DONE ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO.

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WE HAVEN'T SPOKEN SINCE I CAME OUT HERE.
NO.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS EITHER, EH?
SO HE GOT THIS KIND OF WORK.
GOOD FOR HIM. HE LOOKS GOOD.
...
ISN'T THAT A GIRL?
...HE'S THE TYPE JAKE WOULD LIKE.
THIS GUY...
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF "TYPE" I MEAN.
I THINK IT'S A GUY.

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I KNOW. WE WERE BORN FROM TWO HALVES OF THE SAME EGG.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
YOU SEEM AWFULLY SURE ABOUT THAT.
THEY'RE PROBABLY FRIENDS BY NOW.
EVEN IF YOU ARE TWINS.
THAT SOUNDS SILLY.
YOU'D NEVER UNDERSTAND, HAL.
FWIP
C'MON, MARK. I'LL SHOW YOU MY CAR.
HEY! DON'T BLOW ME OFF LIKE THAT!

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OH, BY THE WAY.
DID YOU SEE THIS YET?
I THINK THIS WILL BE A GOOD JOB FOR YOU.
BE AT THE LOCATION BY NINE O'CLOCK.
OKAY.
HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD FROM THE AGENT IN NEW YORK?
NO, NOTHING.
I BOUGHT THIS FOR YOU. YOU CAN TAKE IT.
LOOKS LIKE SIVA'S DOING PRETTY WELL FOR HIMSELF.
YEAH

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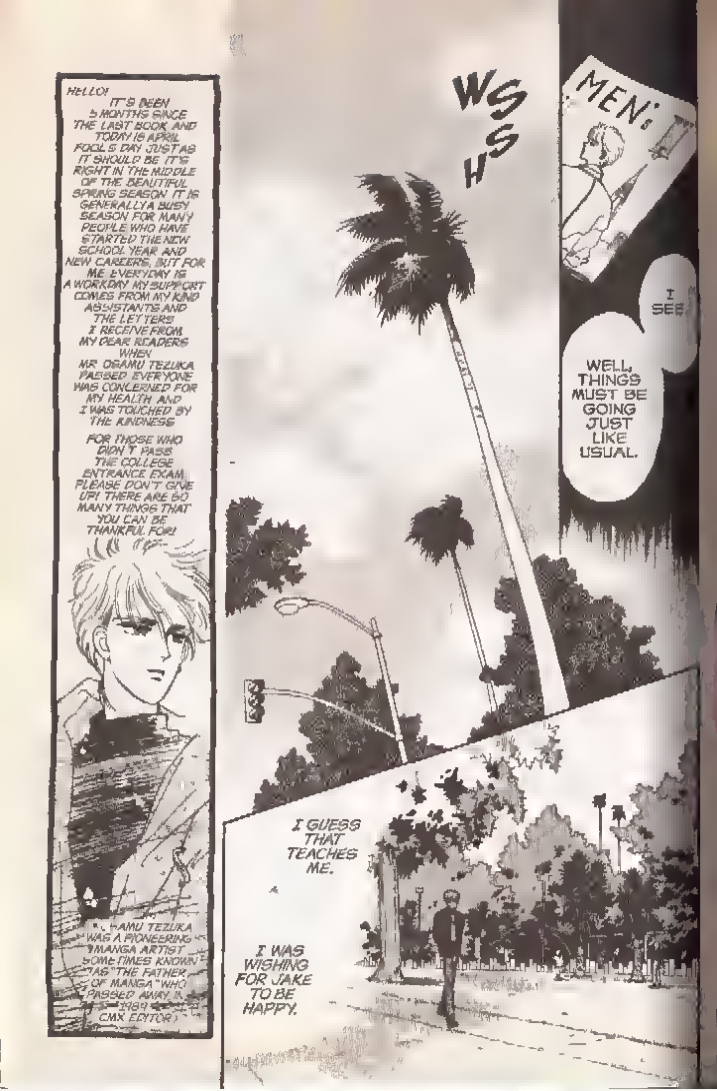
HELLO!
IT'S BEEN 2 MONTHS SINCE THE LAST BOOK AND TODAY IS APRIL FOOL'S DAY JUST AS IT SHOULD BE IT'S RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BEAUTIFUL SPRING SEASON IT IS GENERALLY A BUSY SEASON FOR MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE STARTED THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR AND NEW CAREERS. BUT FOR ME EVERYDAY IS A WORKDAY MY SUPPORT COMES FROM MY KIND ASSISTANTS AND THE LETTERS I RECEIVE FROM MY DEAR READERS WHEN MR OSAMU TEZUKA PASSED EVERYONE WAS CONCERNED FOR MY HEALTH AND I WAS TOUCHED BY THE KINDNESS
FOR THOSE WHO DIDN'T PASS THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP! THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS THAT YOU CAN BE THANKFUL FOR!
OSAMU TEZUKA WAS A PIONEERING MANGA ARTIST SOMETIMES KNOWN AS "THE FATHER OF MANGA" WHO PASSED AWAY IN 1989 (REI CMX EDITOR)
WSHS
MEN'S
I SEE
WELL, THINGS MUST BE GOING JUST LIKE USUAL.
I GUESS THAT TEACHES ME.
I WAS WISHING FOR JAKE TO BE HAPPY.

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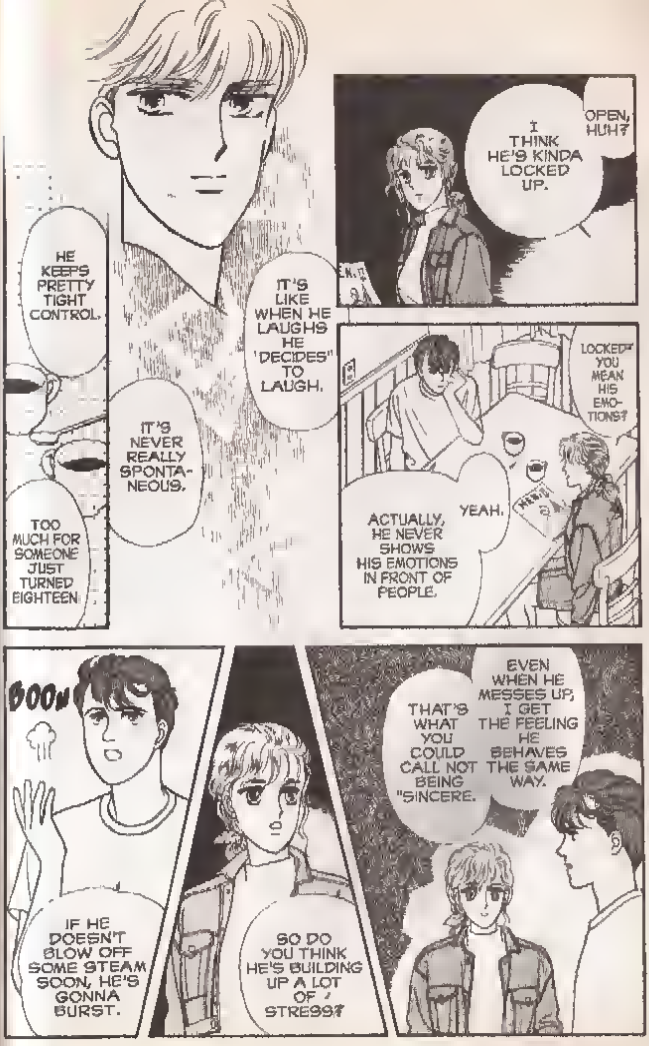
HE KEEPS PRETTY TIGHT CONTROL.
TOO MUCH FOR SOMEONE JUST TURNED EIGHTEEN.
IT'S NEVER REALLY SPONTANEOUS.
IT'S LIKE WHEN HE LAUGHS HE "DECIDES" TO LAUGH.
I THINK HE'S KINDA LOCKED UP.
OPEN, HUH?
ACTUALLY, HE NEVER SHOWS HIS EMOTIONS IN FRONT OF PEOPLE.
YEAH.
LOCKED? YOU MEAN HIS EMOTIONS?
BOOM
IF HE DOESN'T BLOW OFF SOME STEAM SOON, HE'S GONNA BURST.
SO DO YOU THINK HE'S BUILDING UP A LOT OF STRESS?
THAT'S WHAT YOU COULD CALL NOT BEING "SINCERE.
EVEN WHEN HE MESSES UP, I GET THE FEELING HE BEHAVES THE SAME WAY.

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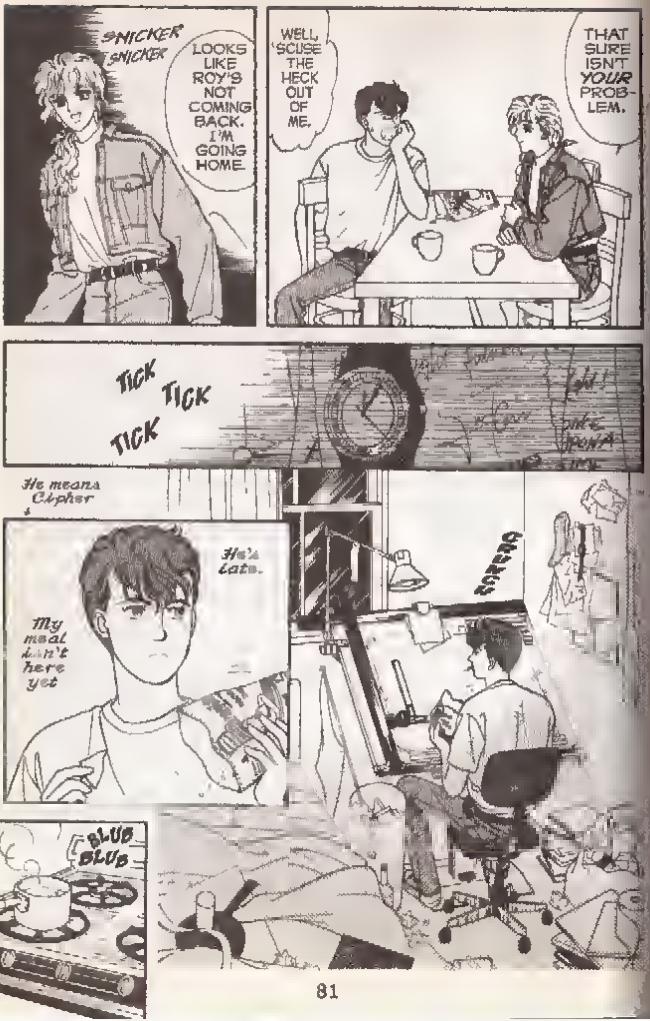

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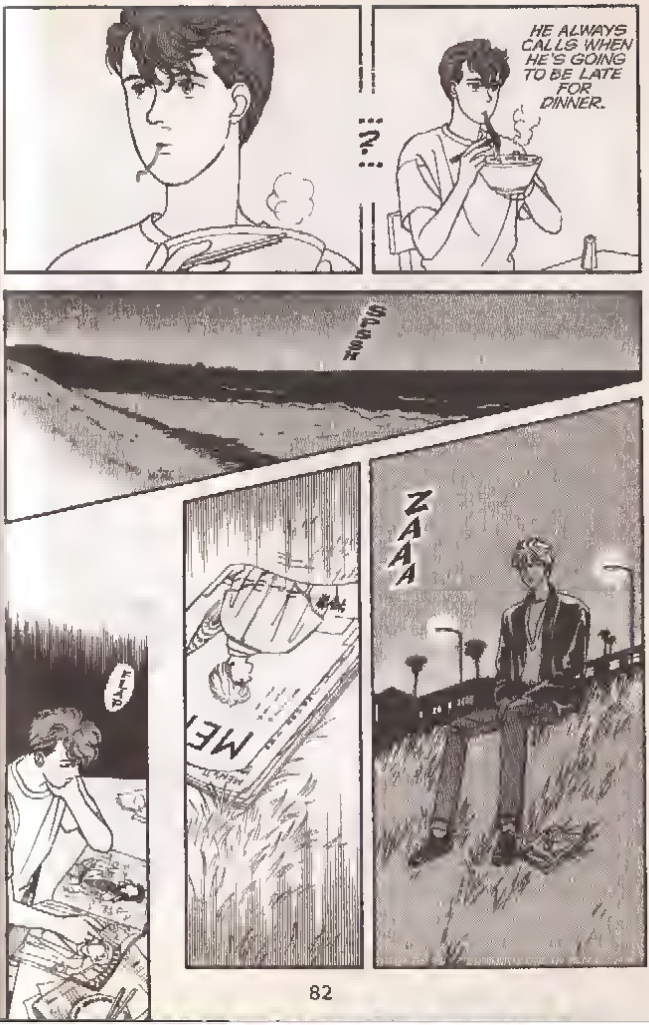

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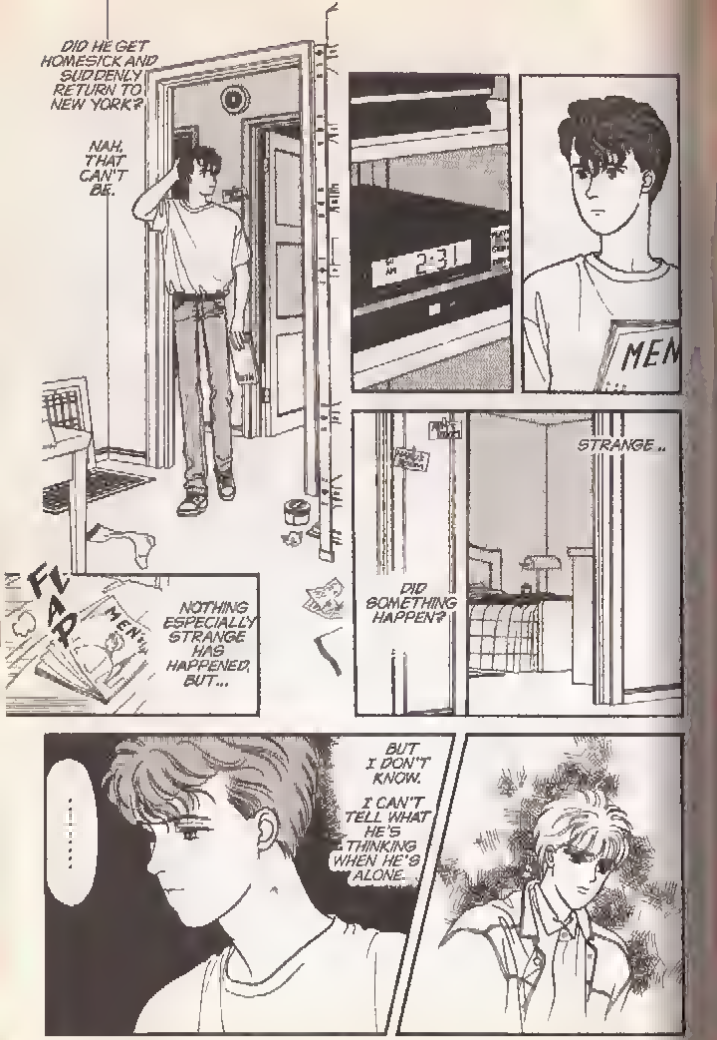

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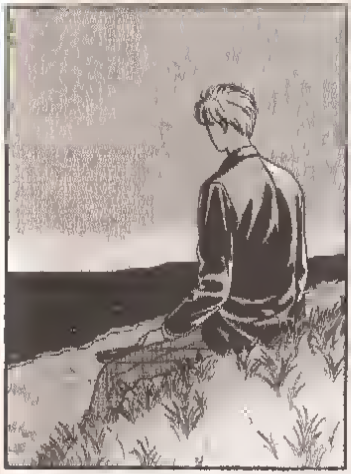

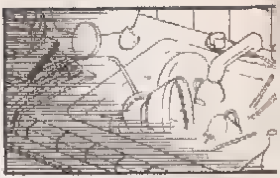

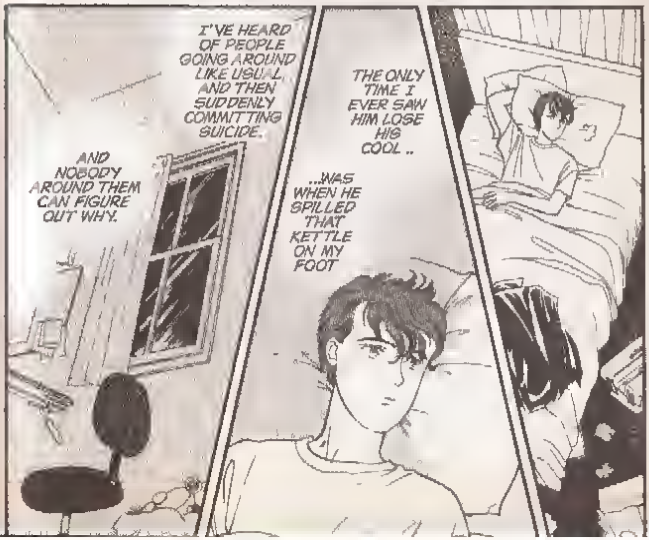
I'VE HEARD OF PEOPLE GOING AROUND LIKE USUAL AND THEN SUDDENLY COMMITTING SUICIDE.
AND NOBODY AROUND THEM CAN FIGURE OUT WHY.
THE ONLY TIME I EVER SAW HIM LOSE HIS COOL ..
...WAS WHEN HE SPILLED THAT KETTLE ON MY FOOT

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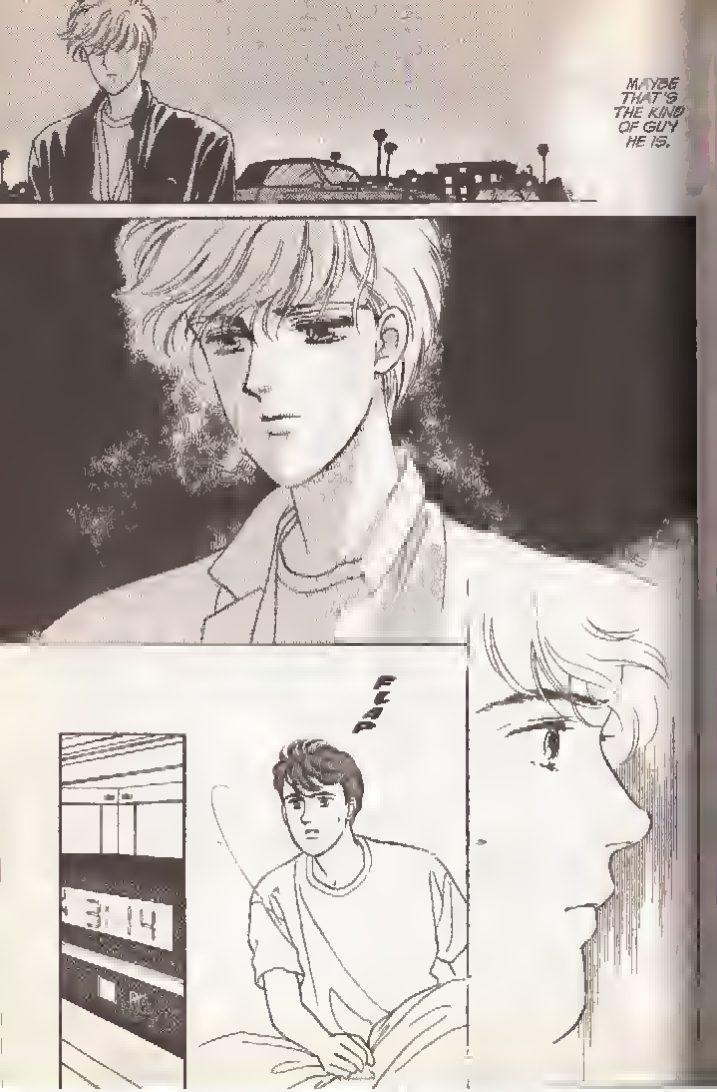

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ROY STILL HASN'T COME HOME YET.
IT'S REALLY BUGGING ME OUT
HE HASN'T COME BY YOUR PLACE, HAS HE?
HAL? WHAT'S WRONG?
HELLO?
CHT KLIKLIKLIK
CHTKLIKLIK
SARAH! IT'S ME.
SORRY TO CALL SO LATE.
HE ALWAYS CALLS AROUND DINNER TIME!
HE HASN'T EVEN CALLED ONCE!
JUST LIKE CLOCK-WORK!
HE'S NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE!
BUT IT'S ONLY ONE NIGHT...
NO, HE HASN'T.

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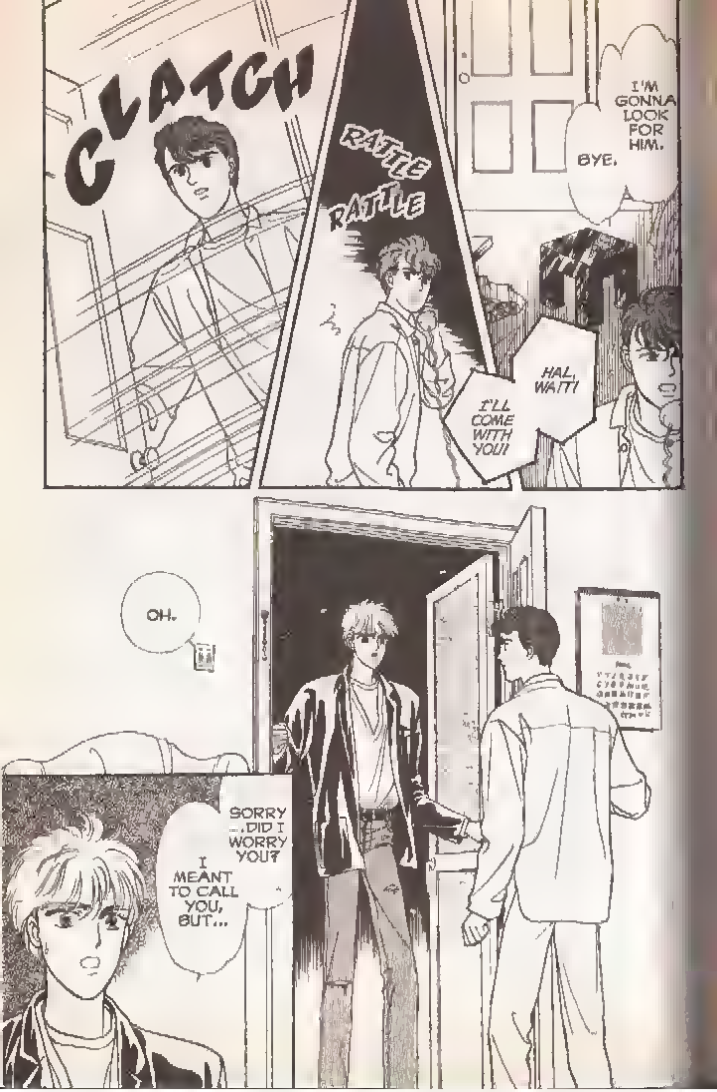

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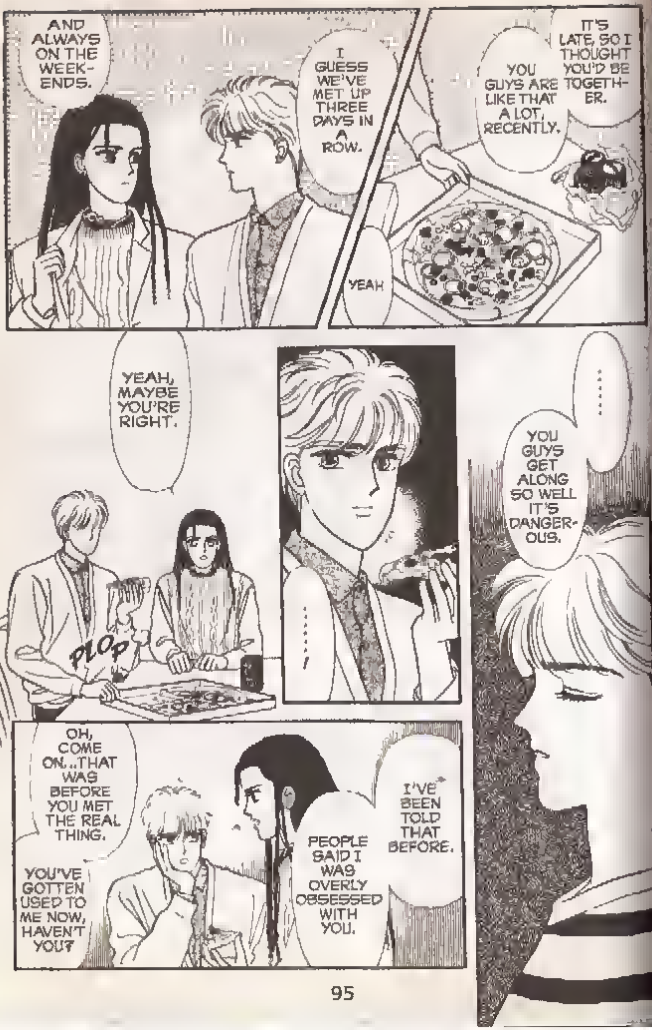
AND ALWAYS ON THE WEEK-ENDS.
I GUESS WE'VE MET UP THREE DAYS IN A ROW.
YEAH
YOU GUYS ARE LIKE THAT A LOT, RECENTLY.
IT'S LATE, SO I THOUGHT YOU'D BE TOGETH-ER.
YEAH, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
PLOP
YOU GUYS GET ALONG SO WELL IT'S DANGER-OUS.
OH, COME ON...THAT WAS BEFORE YOU MET THE REAL THING.
YOU'VE GOTTEN USED TO ME NOW, HAVEN'T YOU?
PEOPLE SAID I WAS OVERLY OBSESSED WITH YOU.
I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT BEFORE.

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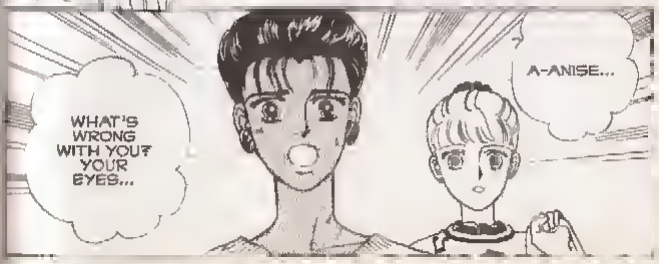

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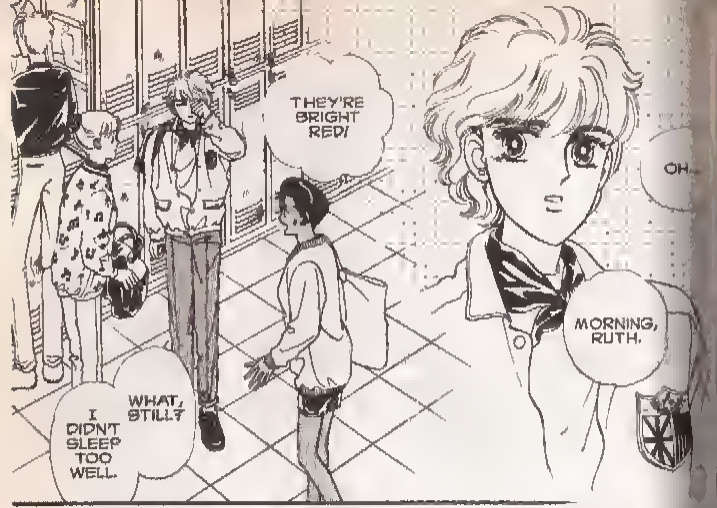

DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOTHING.
I'LL MAKE UP FOR IT BY GETTING A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP TONIGHT.
.....
I KEPT DOZING OFF, BUT I NEVER REALLY FELL ASLEEP.
ARE YO WORRIE ABOUT SOM THING?
YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING, YOU KNOW.

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OF COURSE IT IS!
I THOUGHT SIVA HAD QUIT PARTYING ALL NIGHT.
BUT I WONDER IF IT'S TRUE.
THAT ANISE ...
IT'S GETTING SO SHE WON'T TALK ANYMORE.
WHAT?! WHAT IS IT?!
BUT ACTUALLY..
THERE'S A NEW RUMOR ABOUT HIM...
BEAU..
BEAUTIFUL GIRL?!
RECENTLY
HE'S BEEN GOING AROUND WITH THIS REALLY BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

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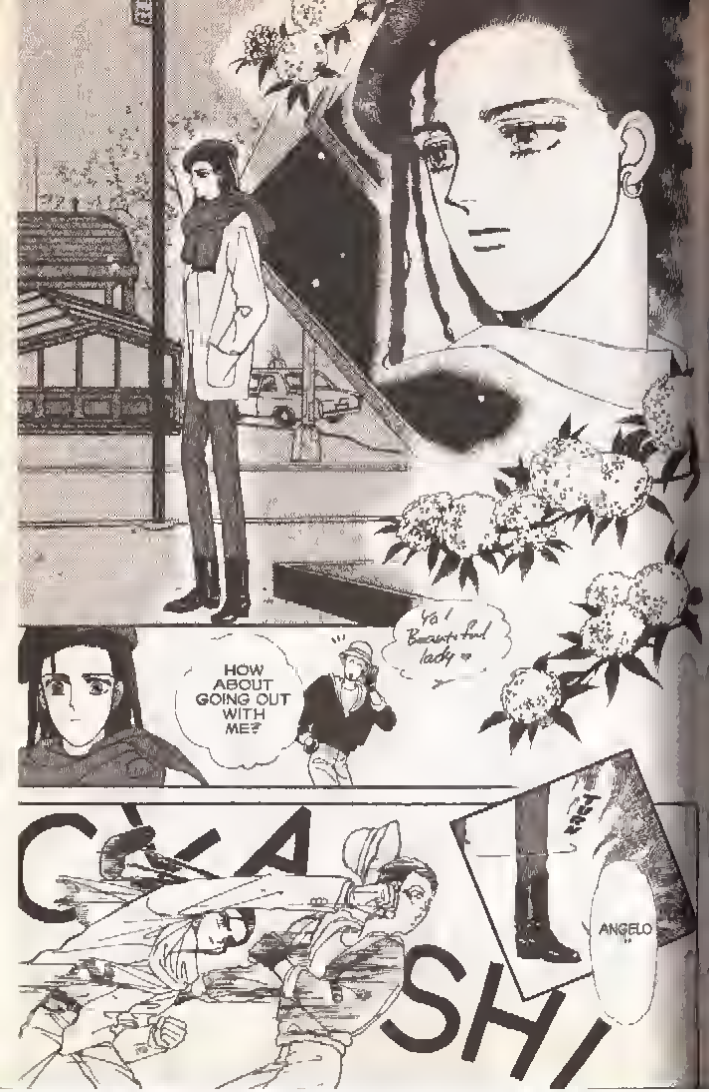

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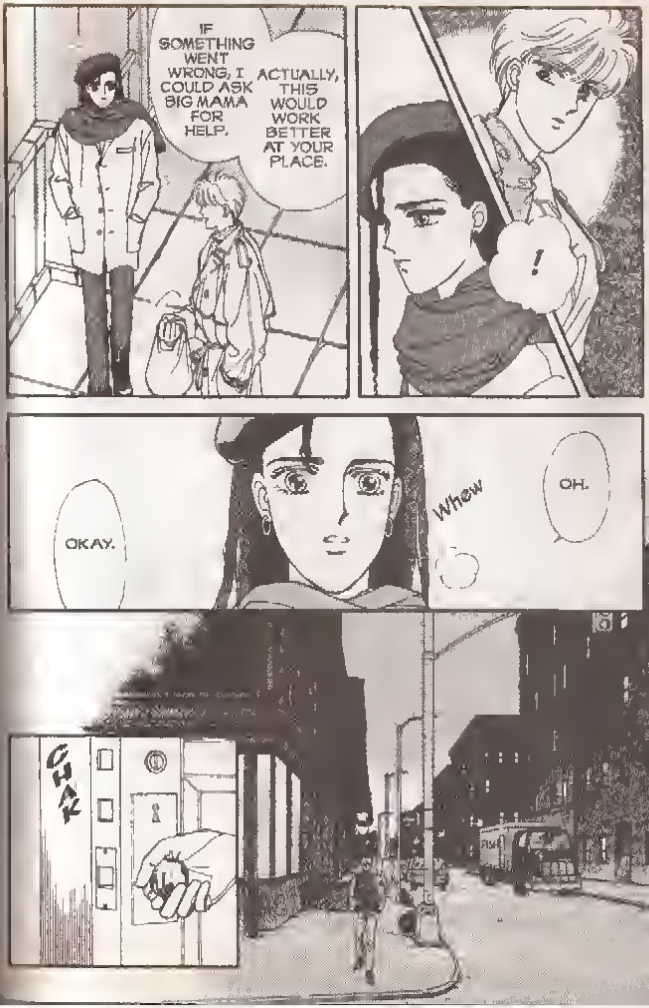

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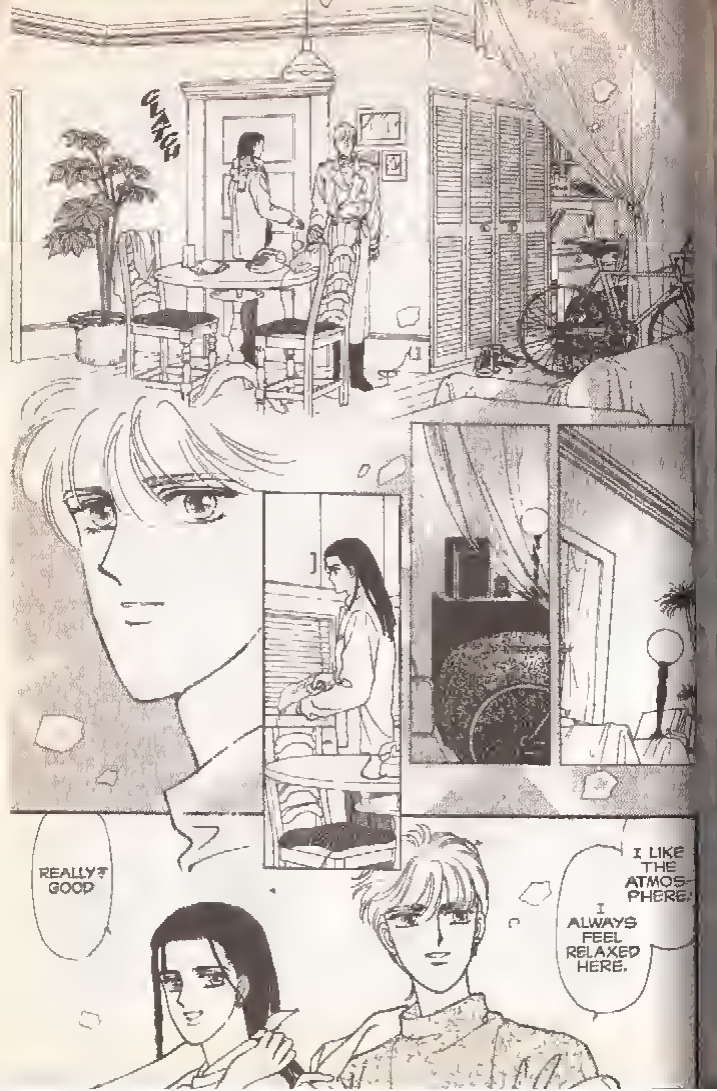

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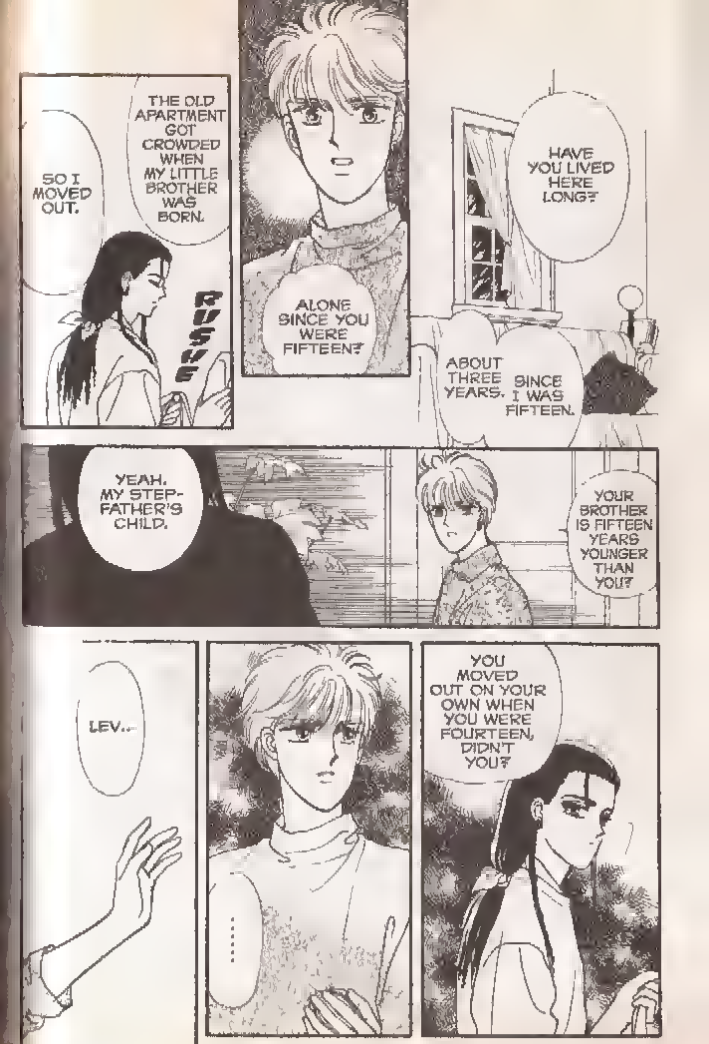
THE OLD APARTMENT GOT CROWDED WHEN MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS BORN.
SO I MOVED OUT.
RUSU
ALONE SINCE YOU WERE FIFTEEN?
HAVE YOU LIVED HERE LONG?
ABOUT THREE YEARS. SINCE I WAS FIFTEEN.
YEAH. MY STEP-FATHER'S CHILD.
YOUR BROTHER IS FIFTEEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN YOU?
LEV..
.....
YOU MOVED OUT ON YOUR OWN WHEN YOU WERE FOURTEEN, DIDN'T YOU?

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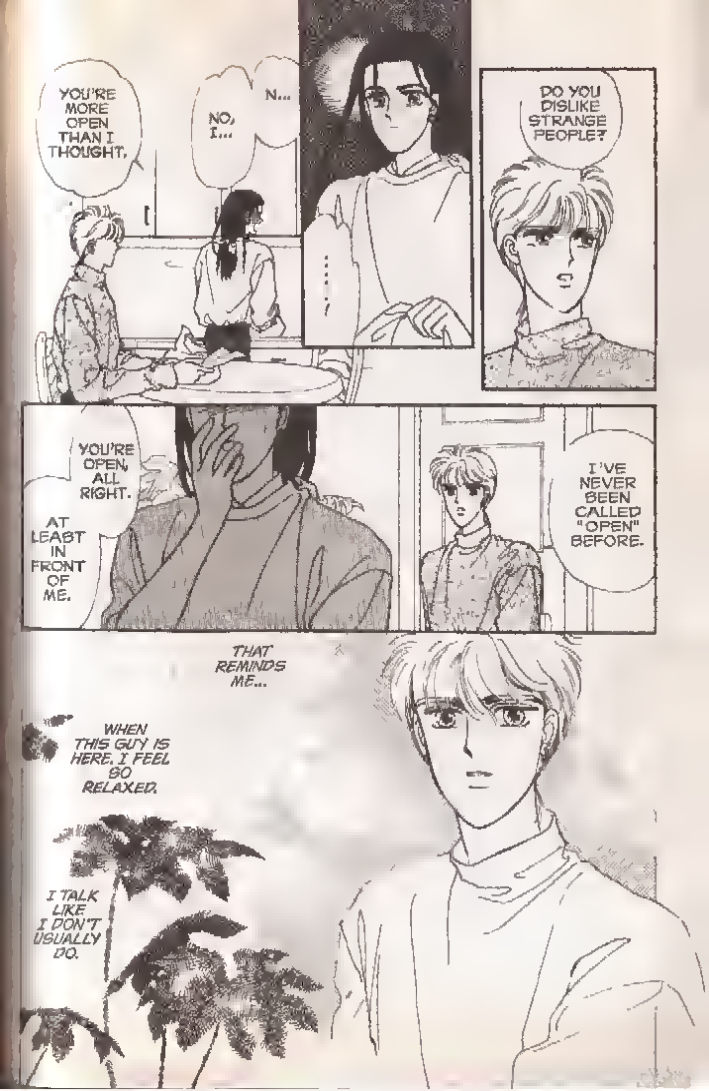
YOU'RE MORE OPEN THAN I THOUGHT.
NO, I...
N...
.....
DO YOU DISLIKE STRANGE PEOPLE?
YOU'RE OPEN, ALL RIGHT.
AT LEAST IN FRONT OF ME.
I'VE NEVER BEEN CALLED "OPEN" BEFORE.
THAT REMINDS ME...
WHEN THIS GUY IS HERE, I FEEL SO RELAXED.
I TALK LIKE I DON'T USUALLY DO.

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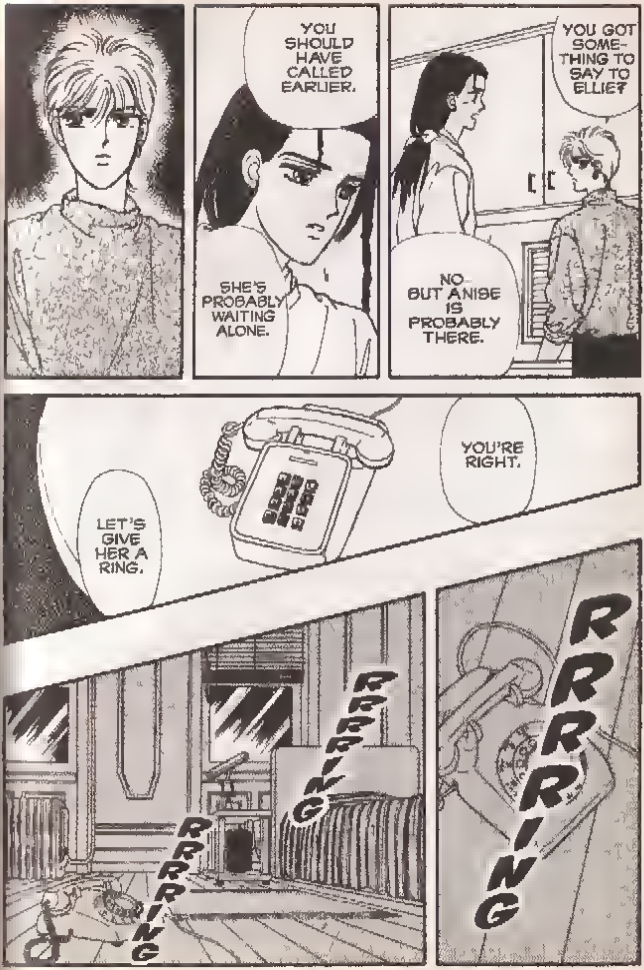

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I FEEL LIKE MUSIC HAS GOTTEN REALLY IMPORTANT IN MY DAILY LIFE. WHEN I FINALLY GET A DAY OFF, I GO TO RECORD SHOPS OR MUSIC CLUBS. SO FAR THIS YEAR I'VE SEEN FISHBONE, PRINCE AND DURAN DURAN AT THE FISHBONE SHOW I DREW TAT TOOS ON MY ARM WITH A MARKER PEN AND DANCED TILL IT WAS SMEARED IN SWEAT.

AT THE DURAN DURAN CONCERT IN THE BIG EGG, I HAD A SEAT IN THE 4TH ROW CENTER. SO THE MOMENT I STOOD UP I HAD A CRICK IN MY NECK. HOW CAME? THE BEST OF ALL WAS PRINCE! HE'S SO OVERFLOWING WITH LOVE AND HE MAKES THE AUDIENCE SO HAPPY. I RESPECT PRINCE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

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MMM
DID YOU GO TO MY PLACE YESTERDAY?
ANISE.
OH, DON'T BE
I DROPPED BY WITHOUT CALLING AHEAD.
YEAH.
I PLAYED WITH ELLIE FOR A WHILE, AND THEN WENT HOME.
FROM NOW ON, I'LL CALL FIRST.
IS IT OKAY IF I STILL COME OVER?
SURE.
OH SORRY.

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I'LL BE STAYING SOMEWHERE ELSE.
I WON'T BE THERE THIS WEEKEND, THOUGH.
UH... YEAH.
AT HIS PLACE?
NO, I'M TAKING HER WITH ME.
KLAK
ELLIE IS GOING TO BE LONELY.

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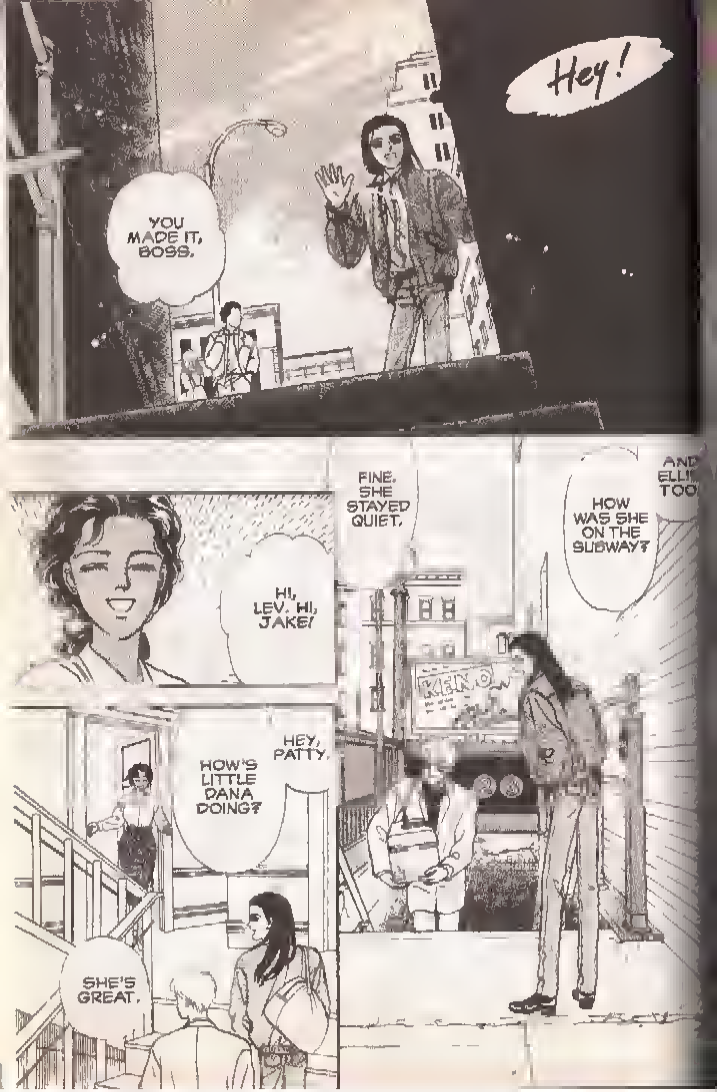

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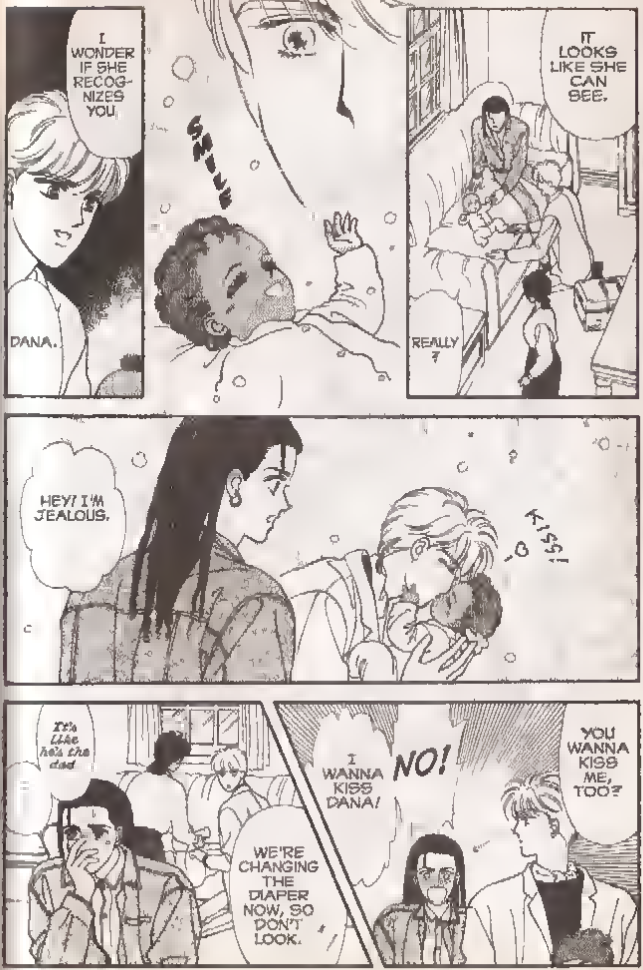

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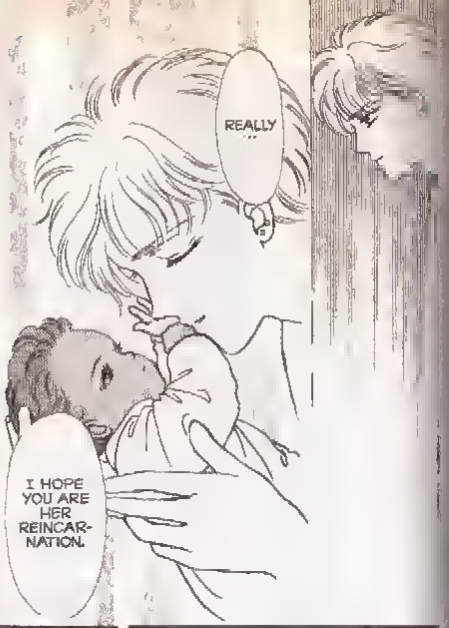

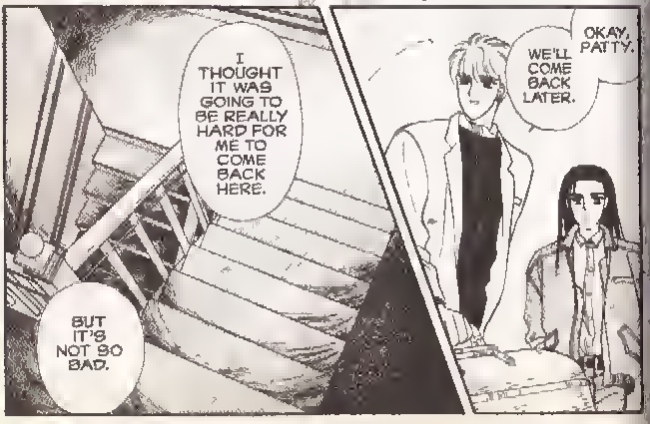

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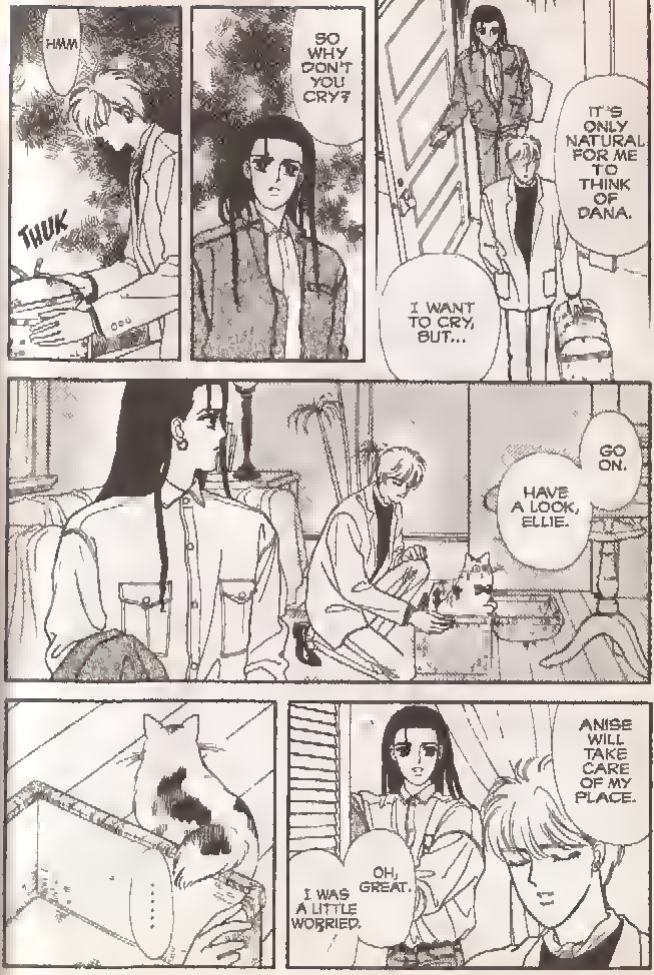

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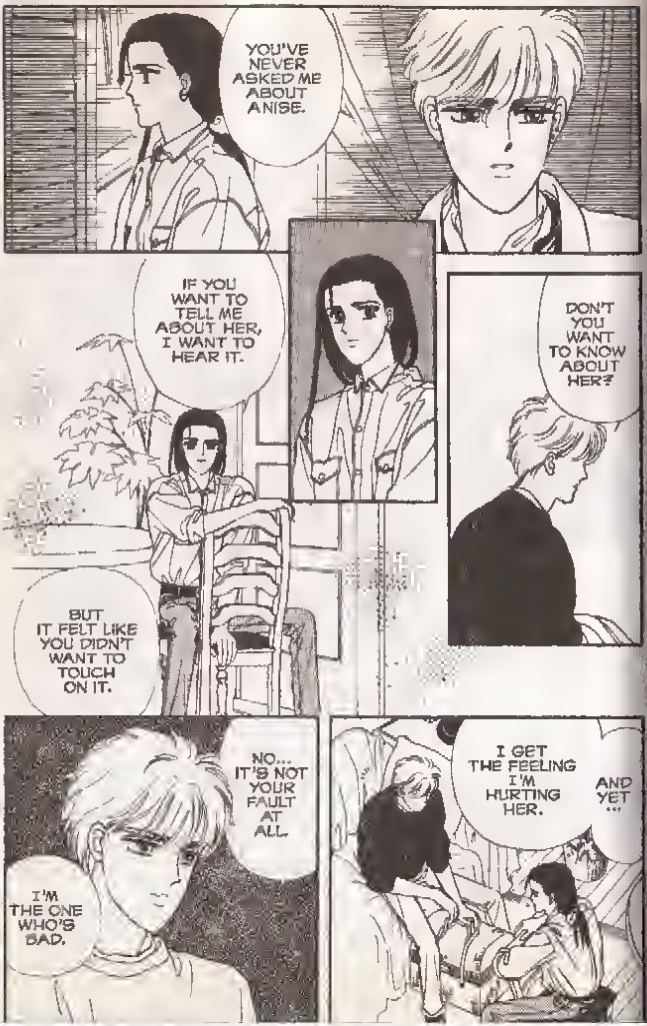
YOU'VE NEVER ASKED ME ABOUT ANISE.
IF YOU WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT HER, I WANT TO HEAR IT.
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HER?
BUT IT FELT LIKE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO TOUCH ON IT.
NO... IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT AT ALL.
I'M THE ONE WHO'S BAD.
I GET THE FEELING I'M HURTING HER.
AND YET ...

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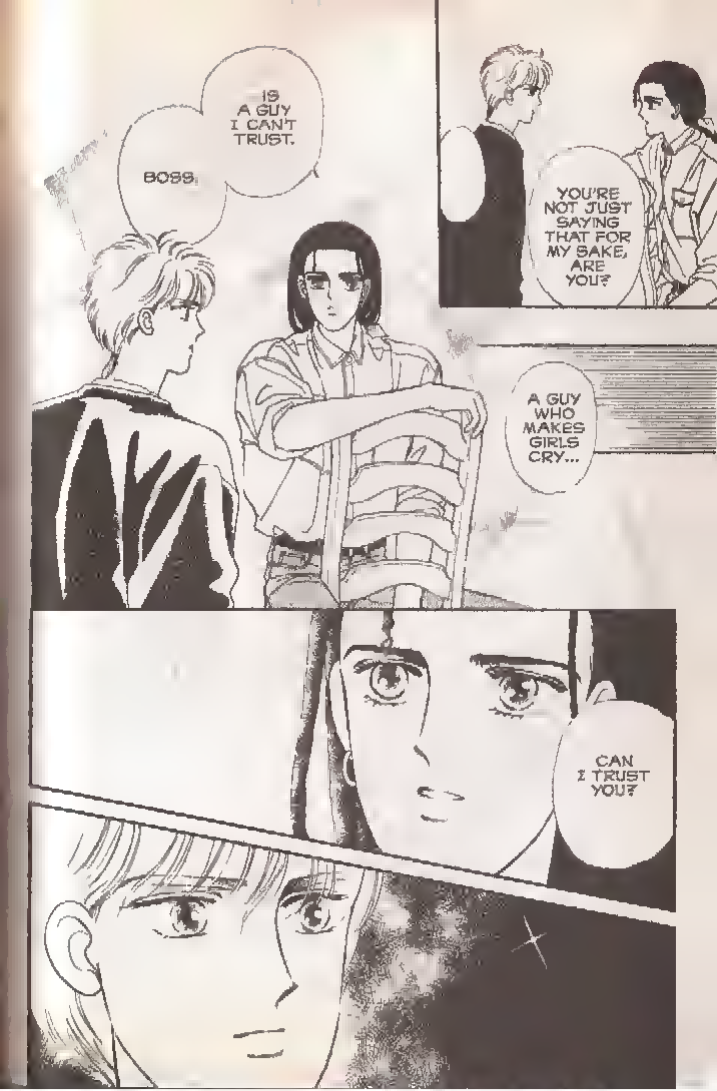

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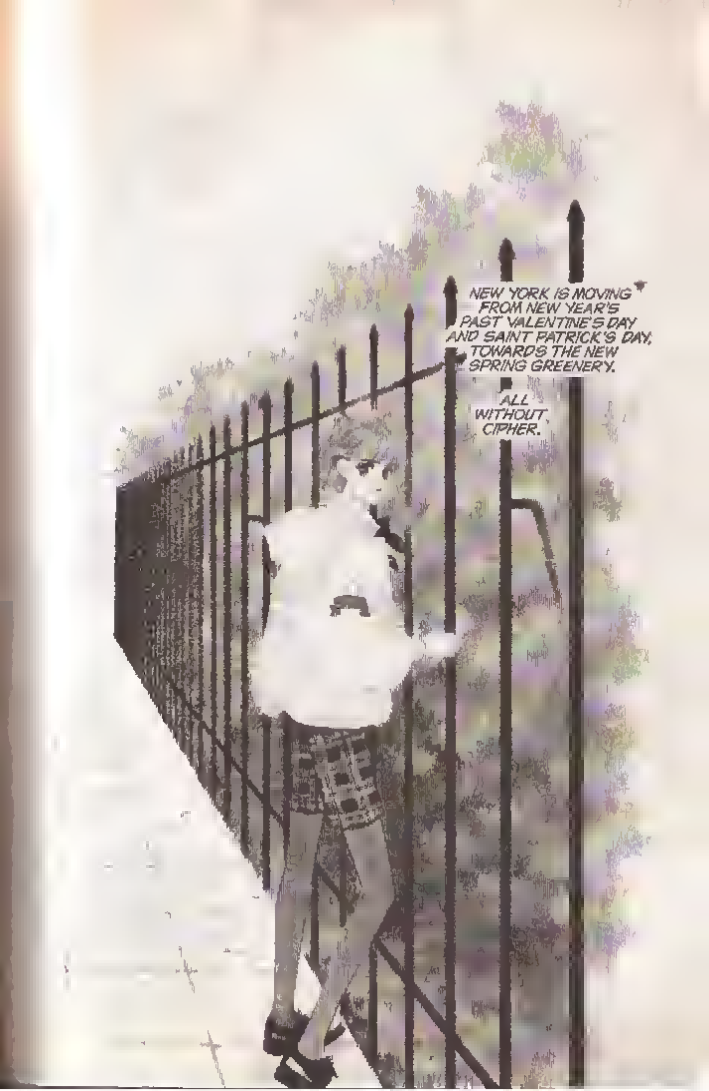
NEW YORK IS MOVING FROM NEW YEAR'S PAST VALENTINE'S DAY AND SAINT PATRICK'S DAY, TOWARDS THE NEW SPRING GREENERY.
ALL WITHOUT CIPHER.

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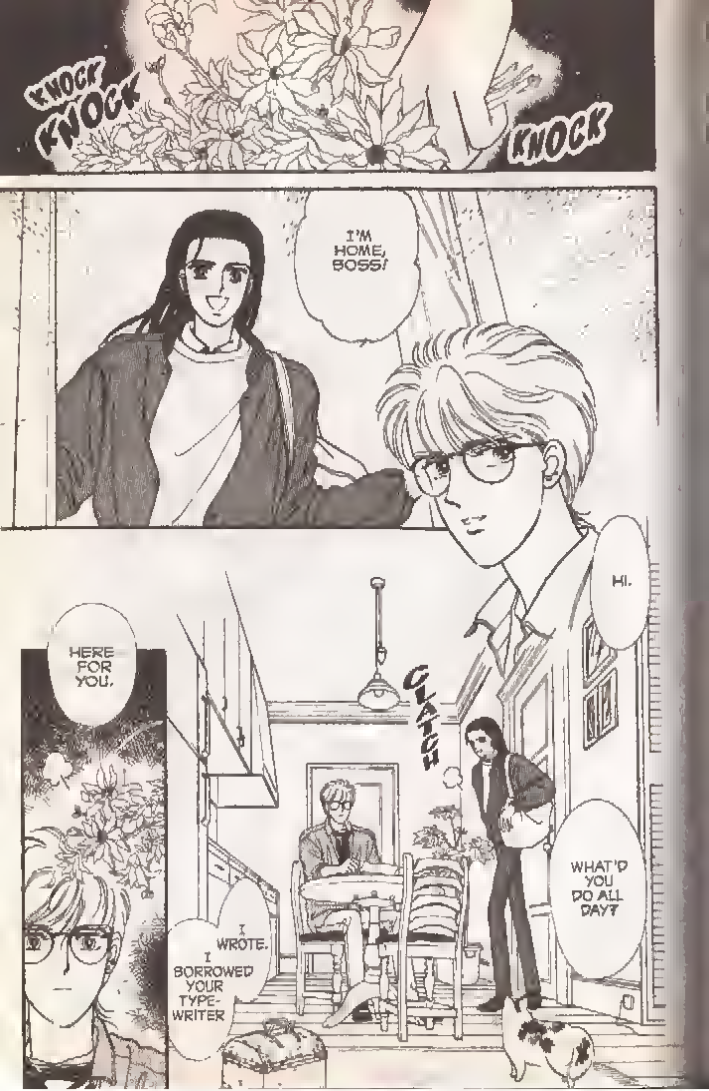

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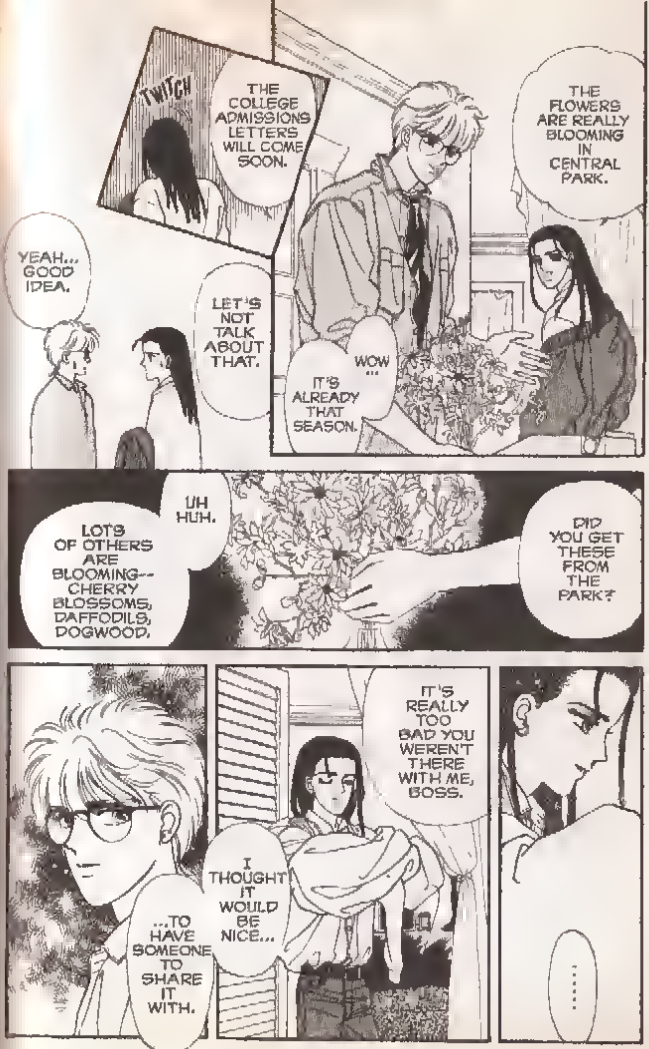
TWITCH
THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS LETTERS WILL COME SOON.
THE FLOWERS ARE REALLY BLOOMING IN CENTRAL PARK.
YEAH... GOOD IDEA.
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT.
WOW ...
IT'S ALREADY THAT SEASON.
UH HUH.
LOTS OF OTHERS ARE BLOOMING-- CHERRY BLOSSOMS, DAFFODILS, DOGWOOD.
DID YOU GET THESE FROM THE PARK?
IT'S REALLY TOO BAD YOU WEREN'T THERE WITH ME, BOSS.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE...
...TO HAVE SOMEONE TO SHARE IT WITH.
.....

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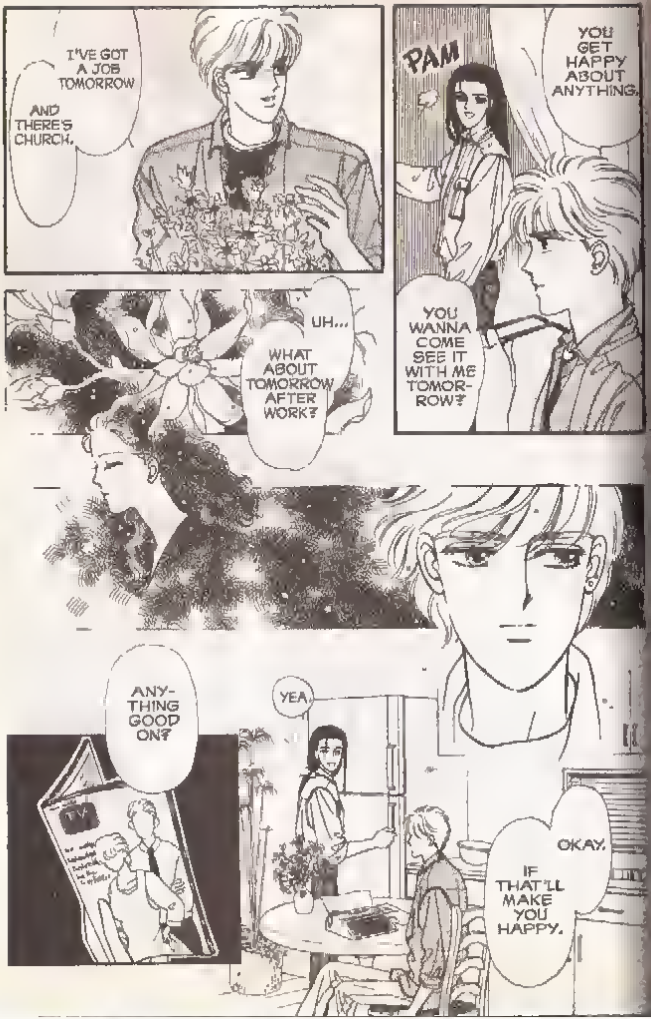

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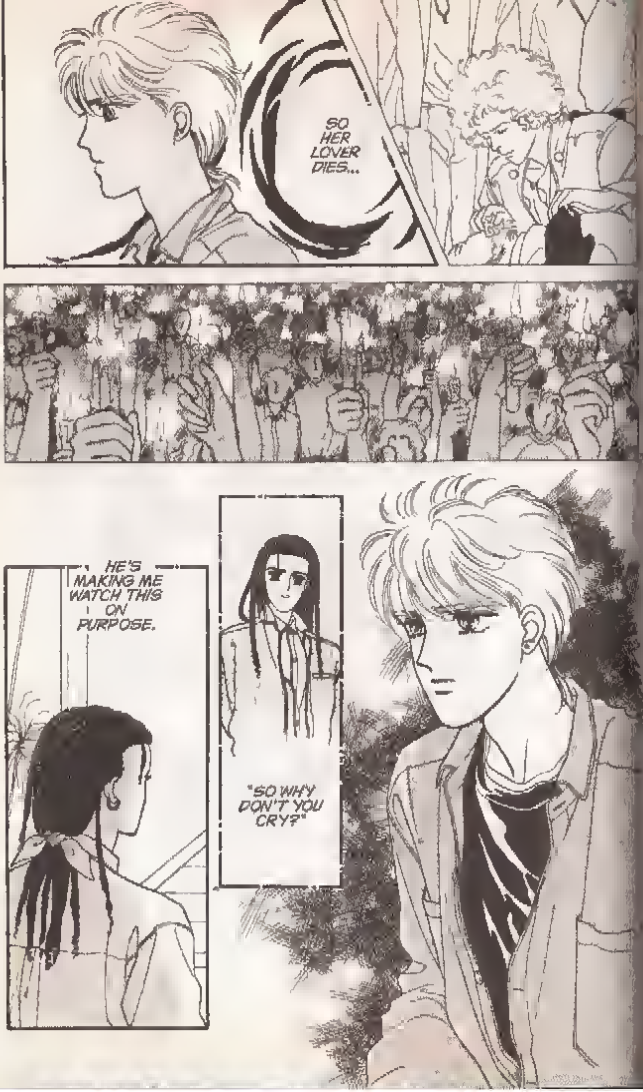

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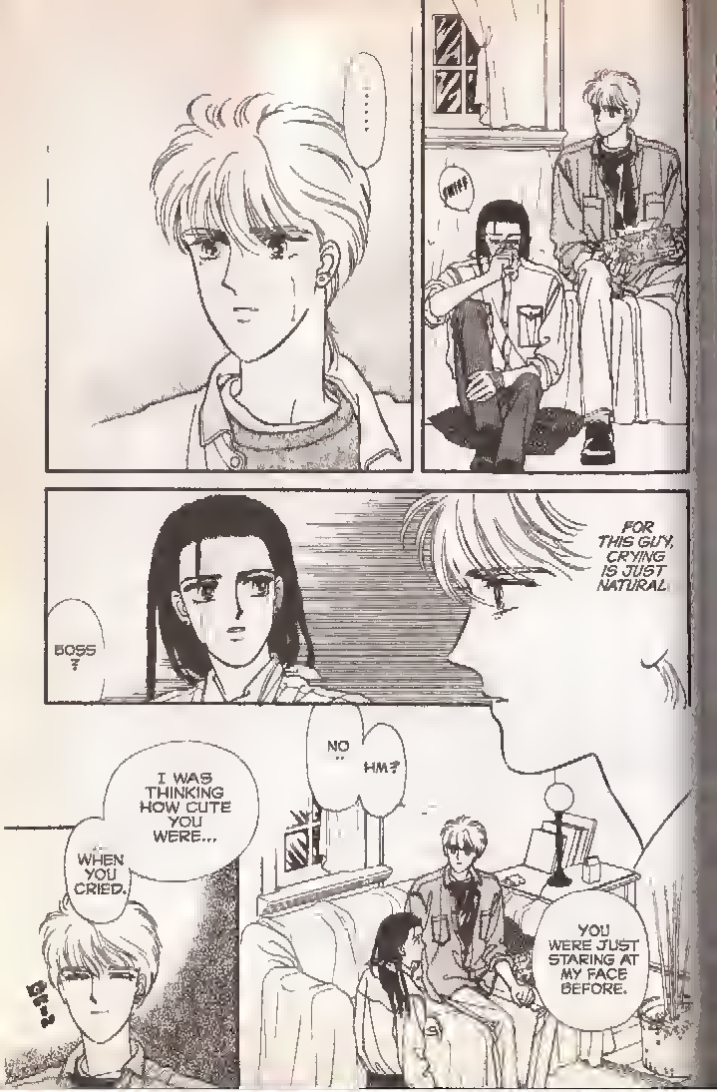

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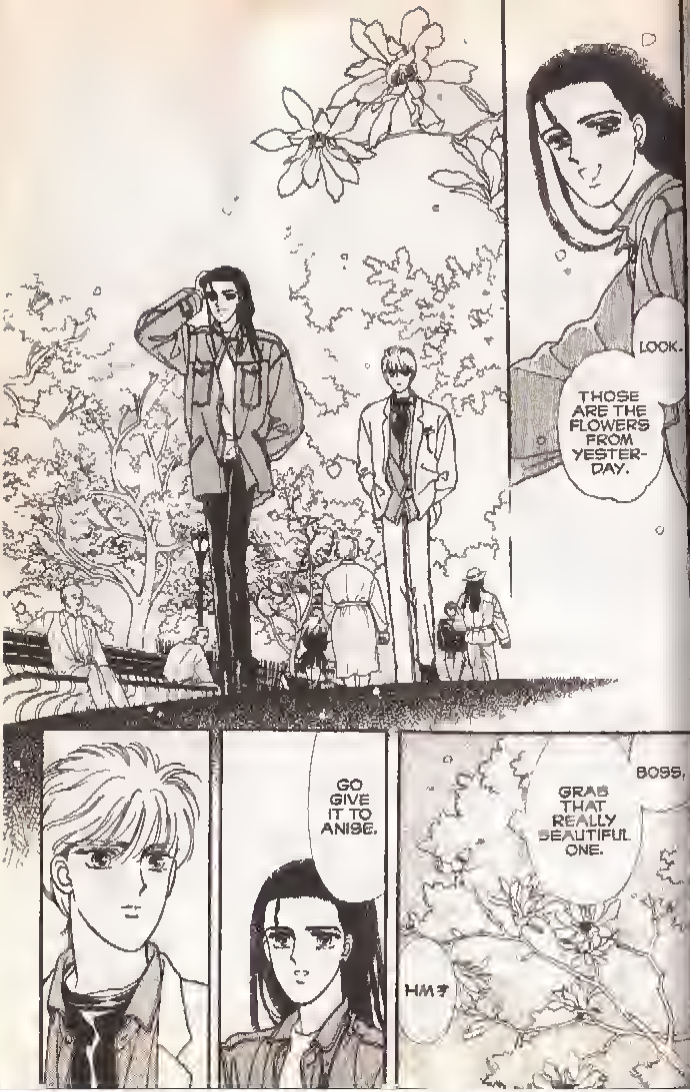

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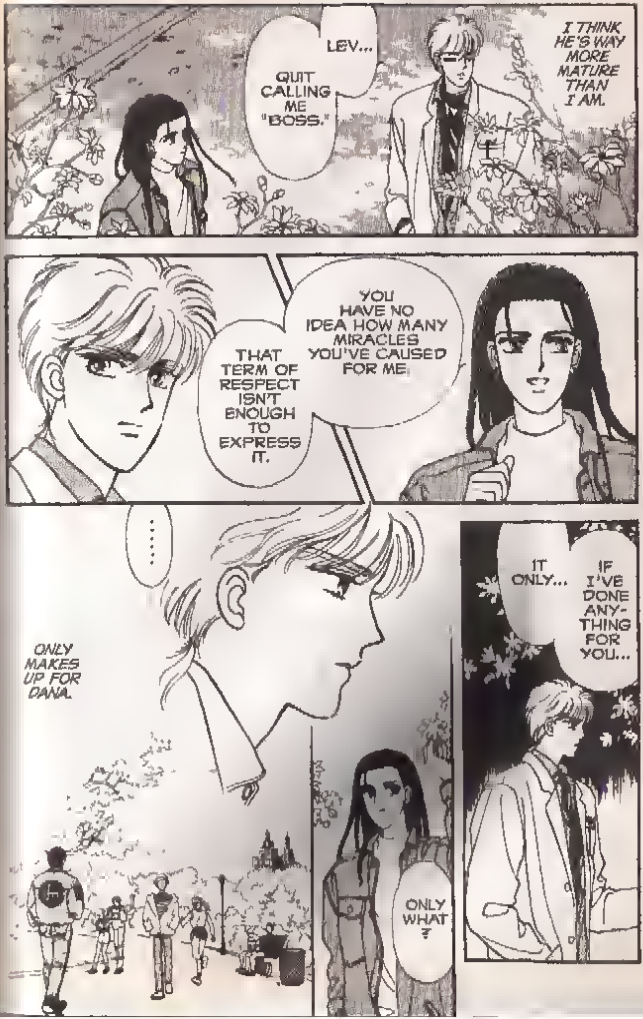
LEV...
QUIT CALLING ME "BOSS."
I THINK HE'S WAY MORE MATURE THAN I AM.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY MIRACLES YOU'VE CAUSED FOR ME.
THAT TERM OF RESPECT ISN'T ENOUGH TO EXPRESS IT.
.....
ONLY MAKES UP FOR DANA.
IT ONLY...
IF I'VE DONE ANY-THING FOR YOU...
ONLY WHAT?

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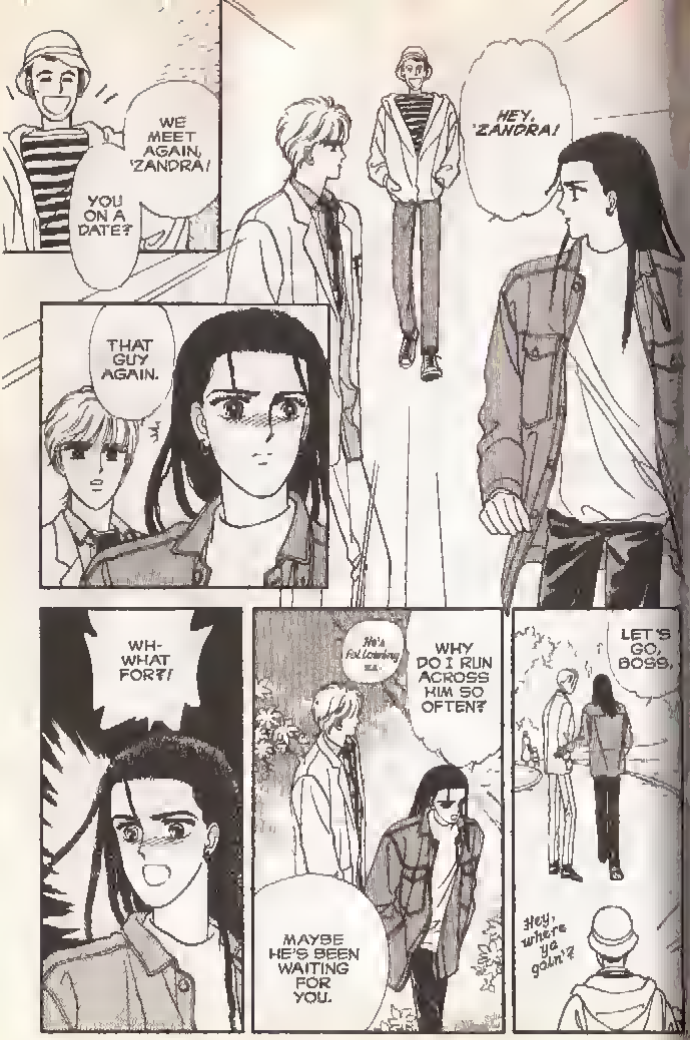

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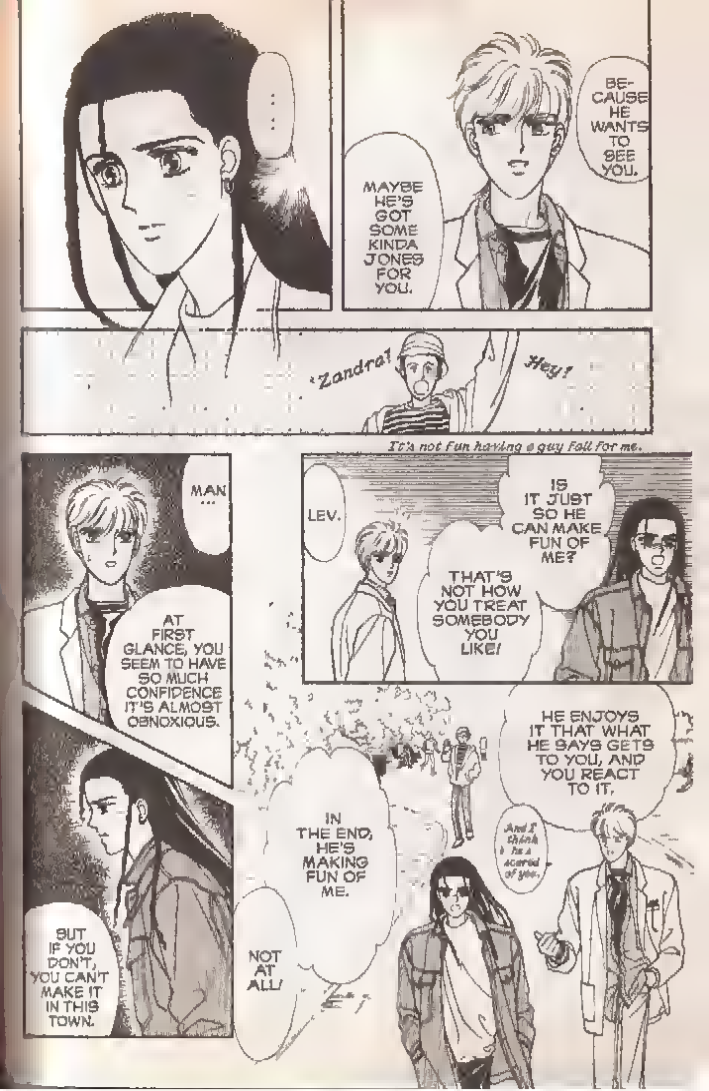
BE-CAUSE HE WANTS TO SEE YOU.
MAYBE HE'S GOT SOME KINDA JONES FOR YOU.
'Zandra?
Hey!
It's not fun having a guy fall for me.
MAN ...
AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU SEEM TO HAVE SO MUCH CONFIDENCE IT'S ALMOST OBNOXIOUS.
BUT IF YOU DON'T, YOU CAN'T MAKE IT IN THIS TOWN.
LEV.
IS IT JUST SO HE CAN MAKE FUN OF ME?
THAT'S NOT HOW YOU TREAT SOMEBODY YOU LIKE!
IN THE END, HE'S MAKING FUN OF ME.
NOT AT ALL!
HE ENJOYS IT THAT WHAT HE SAYS GETS TO YOU, AND YOU REACT TO IT.
And I think I'm a scared of you.

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WELL THEN...
LAUGH A LITTLE MORE AND TALK TO HIM.
LET'S TRY A LITTLE SOMETHING HERE.
LISTEN.
HEY, 'ZANDRA, LOOK OVER HERE/ SAY SOMETHING!

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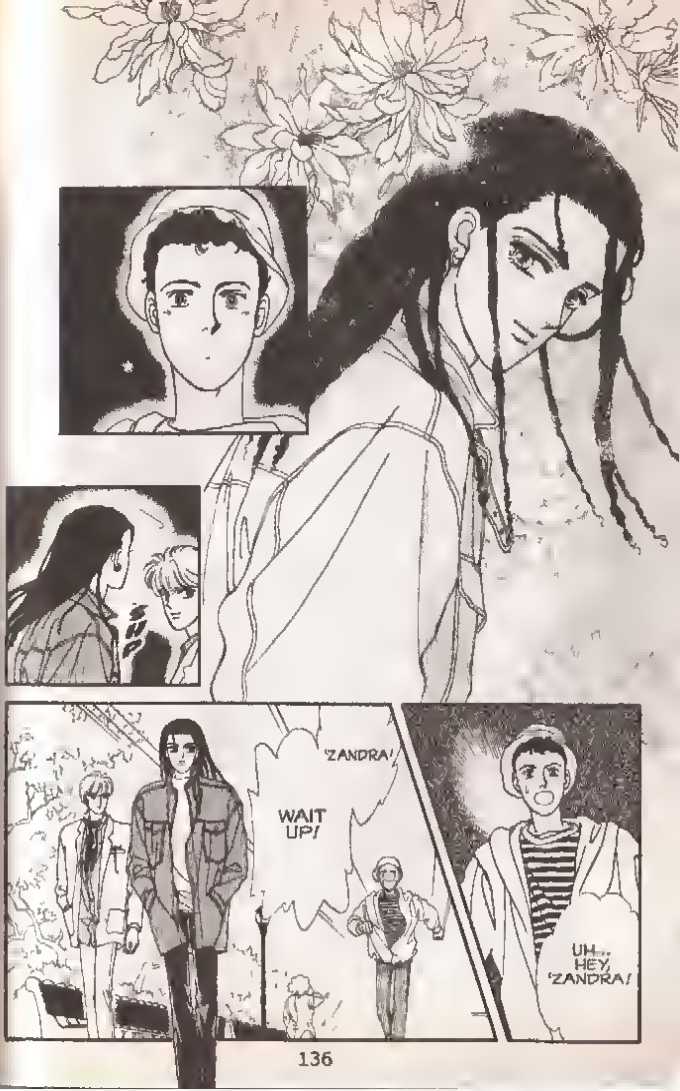

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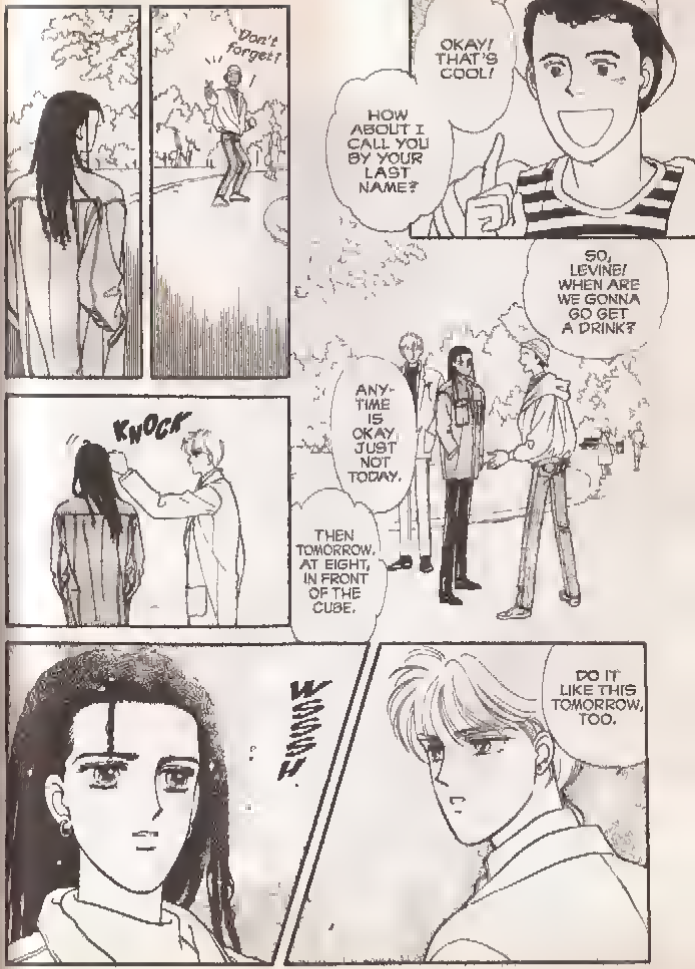
Don't forget!
OKAY! THAT'S COOL!
HOW ABOUT I CALL YOU BY YOUR LAST NAME?
SO, LEVINE! WHEN ARE WE GONNA GO GET A DRINK?
ANY-TIME IS OKAY, JUST NOT TODAY.
THEN TOMORROW, AT EIGHT, IN FRONT OF THE CUBE.
KNOCK
WOOSH
DO IT LIKE THIS TOMORROW, TOO.

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"CIPHER THE VIDEO" WHICH GOES ON SALE IN MARCH IS GETTING GREAT REVIEWS. THANKS SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT A COPY!! THIS IS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE SELLING AN ANIME VIDEO, SO I GET THE FEELING I WAS DREAMING AS IT ALL CAME TOGETHER.

IF YOU SEE IT LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF IT

WE WERE REALLY LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO USE A SONG BY THE THOMPSON TWINS IN THE VIDEO. FATE IS A STRANGE THING. NOW THAT THEIR GREATEST HITS ALBUM IS BEING RELEASED IN JAPAN, I'VE BEEN TAPPED TO WRITE THE LINER NOTES!! (DON'T EXPECT ANY BRILLIANT ANALYSIS...IT'LL JUST BE ILLUSTRATIONS AND COMMENTS.) THOMSON TWINS GREATEST MIXES GOES ON SALE MAY 21 ON THE BGM VICTOR LABEL. PLEASE BUY A COPY!

GOD, HE'S SO HANDSOME!

T O M

I TOLD YOU TO STOP THAT.

BOSS ...

CUT IT OUT.

BOSS ...

BOSS

WILL YOU PLEASE ...

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ANISE DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL?
HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING, SIVA?
THIS MORNING SHE LEFT HOME SAME AS ALWAYS.
.....
SHE'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY. I'M WORRIED.
I GOTTA GO.
I'M GONNA LOOK FOR HER.
SIVA?
WAIT! I'LL COME WITH YOU!
FWAP!

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SOON IT WILL BE THE SAME SEASON AS IT WAS THEN.
THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, CITICORP CENTER..
BOY LONDON
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE TAKEN A WALK LIKE THIS.
SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
CENTRAL PARK...

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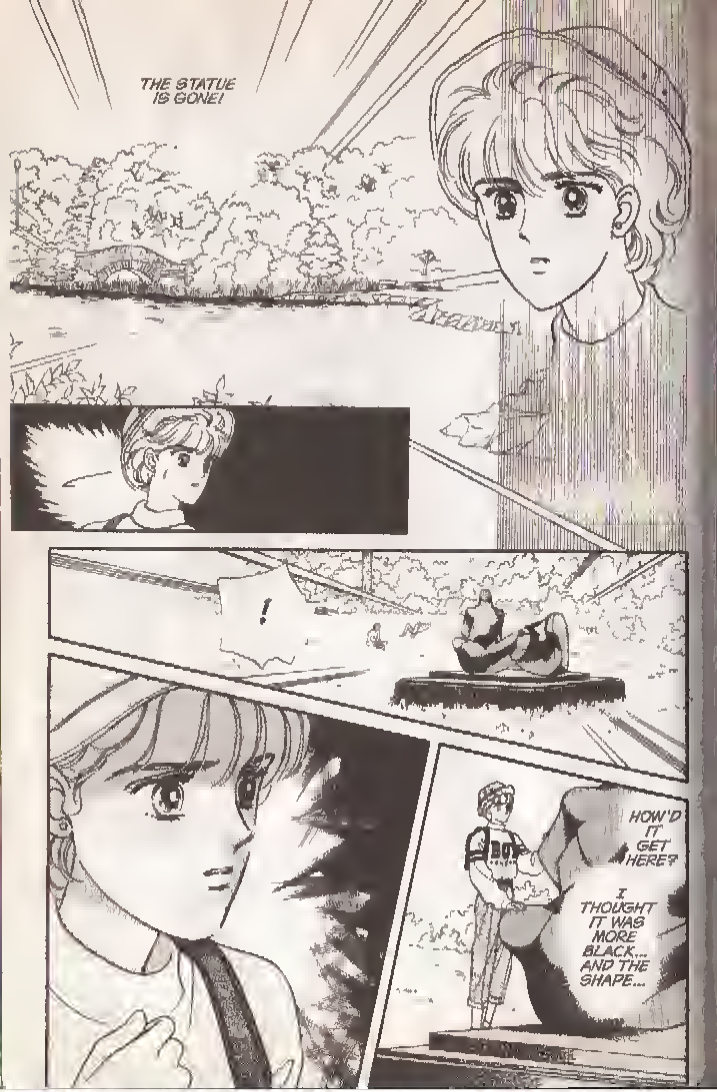

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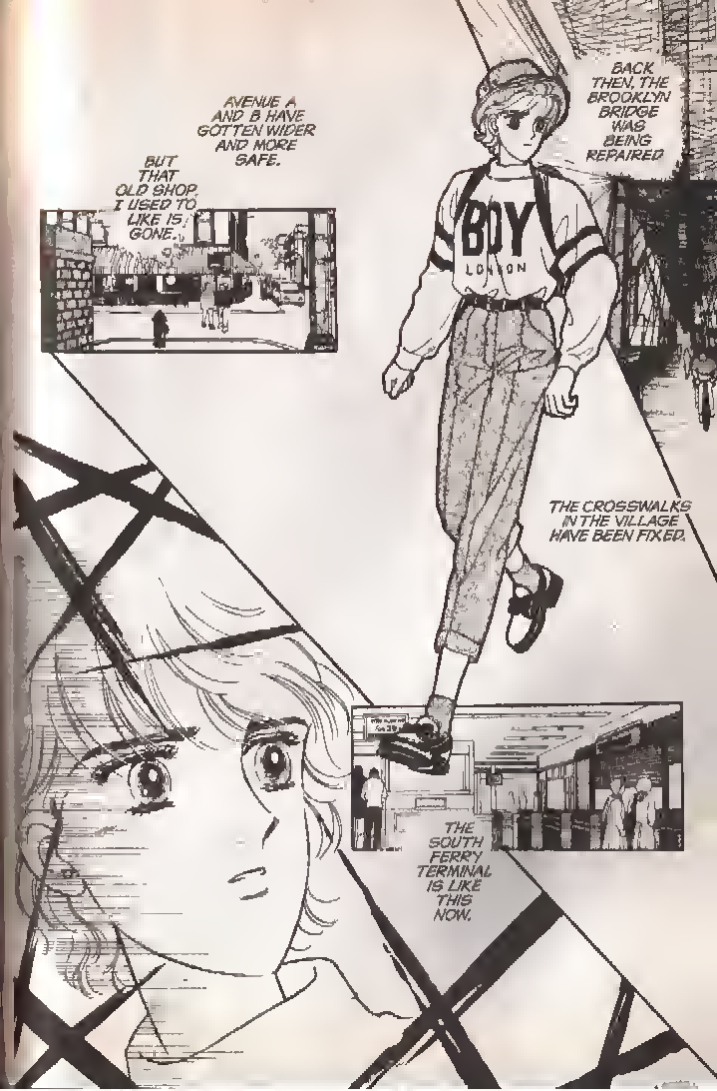
BACK THEN, THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE WAS BEING REPAIRED
BOY
LONDON
AVENUE A AND B HAVE GOTTEN WIDER AND MORE SAFE.
BUT THAT OLD SHOP, I USED TO LIKE IS, GONE.
THE CROSSWALKS IN THE VILLAGE HAVE BEEN FIXED.
THE SOUTH FERRY TERMINAL IS LIKE THIS NOW.

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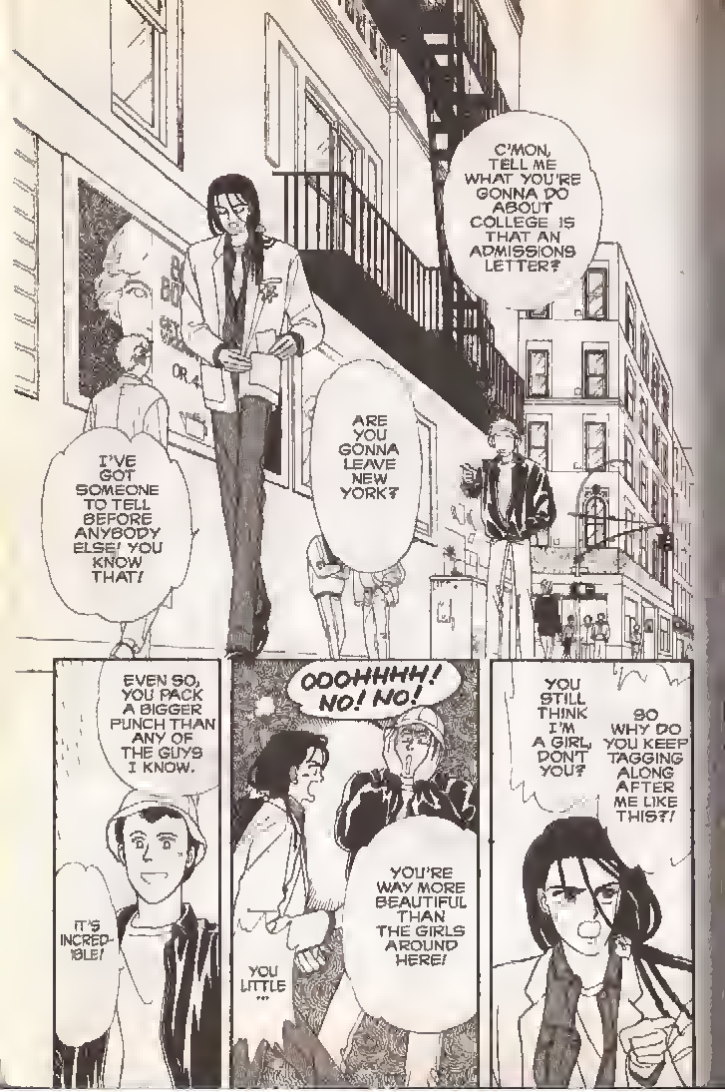
C'MON, TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO ABOUT COLLEGE IS THAT AN ADMISSIONS LETTER?
ARE YOU GONNA LEAVE NEW YORK?
I'VE GOT SOMEONE TO TELL BEFORE ANYBODY ELSE! YOU KNOW THAT!
EVEN SO, YOU PACK A BIGGER PUNCH THAN ANY OF THE GUYS I KNOW.
IT'S INCRED-IBLE!
OOOHHHH! NO! NO!
YOU'RE WAY MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE GIRLS AROUND HERE!
YOU LITTLE ...
YOU STILL THINK I'M A GIRL, DON'T YOU?
SO WHY DO YOU KEEP TAGGING ALONG AFTER ME LIKE THIS?!

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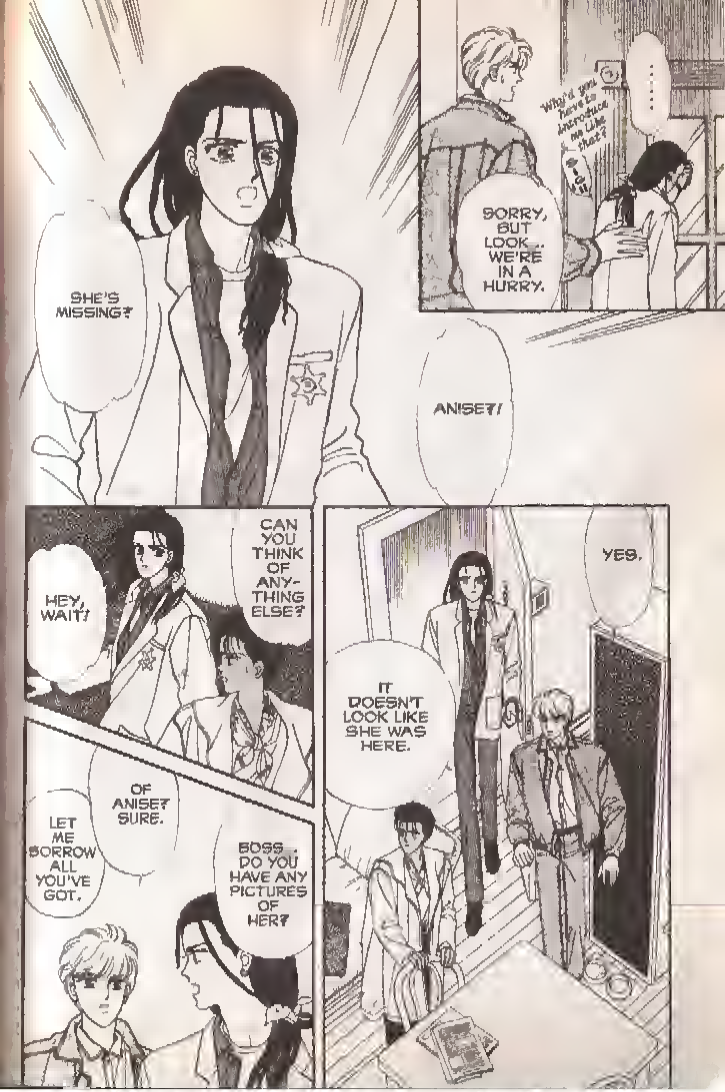
SORRY, BUT LOOK... WE'RE IN A HURRY.
Why'd you have to announce me like that?
SHE'S MISSING?
ANISE?!
HEY, WAIT!
CAN YOU THINK OF ANY-THING ELSE?
LET ME BORROW ALL YOU'VE GOT.
OF ANISE? SURE.
BOSS... DO YOU HAVE ANY PICTURES OF HER?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE WAS HERE.
YES.

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THIS WAS TAKEN LAST YEAR IN L.A.
BAM
FWEEET
ANGELO! GET UP HERE!
THIS IS HER, ANGELO.
WHOA. SHE'S CUTE.
HER HAIR IS SHORTER NOW, AND SHE'S ABOUT FIVE FOOT THREE.
GOTCHA! LEAVE IT TO ME.
YOU WANT EVERY-BODY TO LOOK FOR HER?
LISTEN.
TAKE ALL THIS STRAIGHT OVER TO LARRY.

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OF COURSE! HE'S MY JUDO TEACHER.
WHO'S LARRY? SOMEONE YOU TRUST?
FLAP
SLAM
IF YOU FIND HER, CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY.
OKAY!
NOW WE'VE GOT TWENTY OR THIRTY GUYS ON IT.
HOW SHOULD WE SEARCH?
Manhatt.
RRRRRING
PLACES SHE'S MOST LIKELY TO GO?
AND THE REST CAN COMB THE STREETS.
PUT A FEW GUYS IN THE PLACES SHE'S MOST LIKELY TO GO.

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THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.
HEY LARR
THANKS FOR HELPING OUT. ♡
THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY.
CENTRAL PARK.
CITICORP CENTER.
CAN YOU THINK OF ANY-WHERE ELSE?
THE REST OF THEM CAN SCATTER AND COMB THE CITY.
I'M GONNA GIVE YOU A FEW SPOTS, SO WRITE THEM DOWN.
WHAT ABOUT CHURCH?
THAT'S THE KIND OF PLACE PEOPLE GO.

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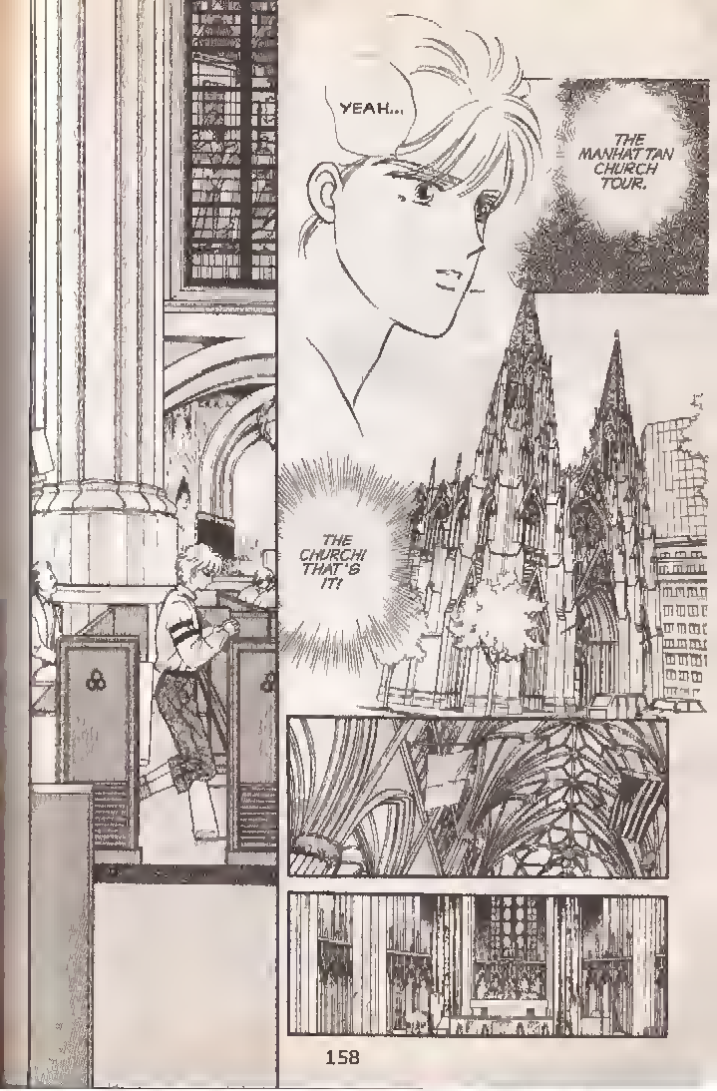

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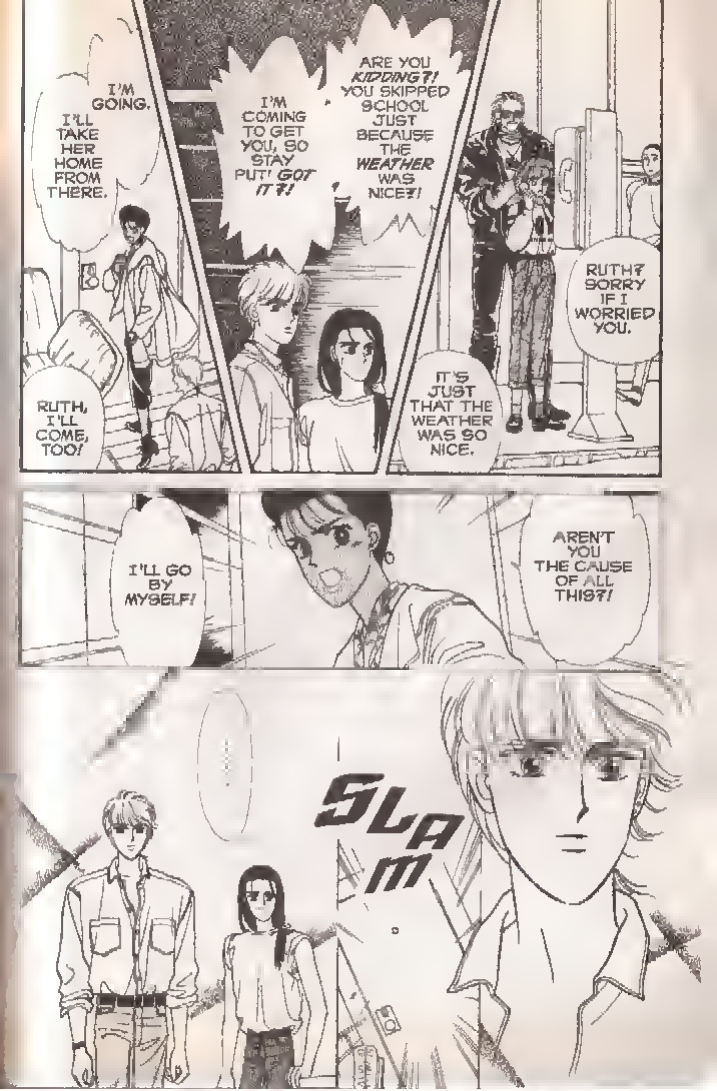
I'M GOING.
I'LL TAKE HER HOME FROM THERE.
RUTH, I'LL COME, TOO!
I'M COMING TO GET YOU, SO STAY PUT! GOT IT?!
ARE YOU KIDDING?! YOU SKIPPED SCHOOL JUST BECAUSE THE WEATHER WAS NICE?!
IT'S JUST THAT THE WEATHER WAS SO NICE.
RUTH? SORRY IF I WORRIED YOU.
I'LL GO BY MYSELF!
AREN'T YOU THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS?!
SLAM

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YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT.
I'LL HAVE TO THANK EVERY-BODY ELSE LATER.
THANKS. YOU REALLY HELPED OUT.
THIS CAME FOR YOU.
WHAT DID YOU COME TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
IT'S FROM COLUMBIA?
!

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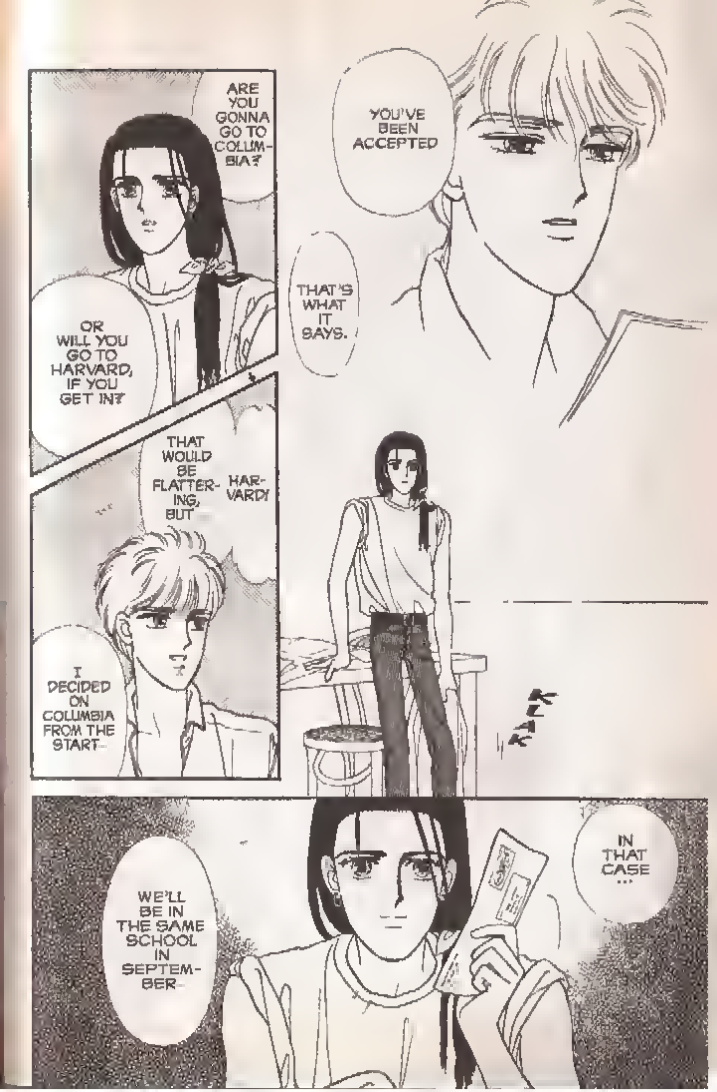
ARE YOU GONNA GO TO COLUMBIA?
OR WILL YOU GO TO HARVARD, IF YOU GET IN?
THAT WOULD BE FLATTERING, BUT
HARVARD!
I DECIDED ON COLUMBIA FROM THE START-
YOU'VE BEEN ACCEPTED
THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS.
KIAK
IN THAT CASE ...
WE'LL BE IN THE SAME SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER-

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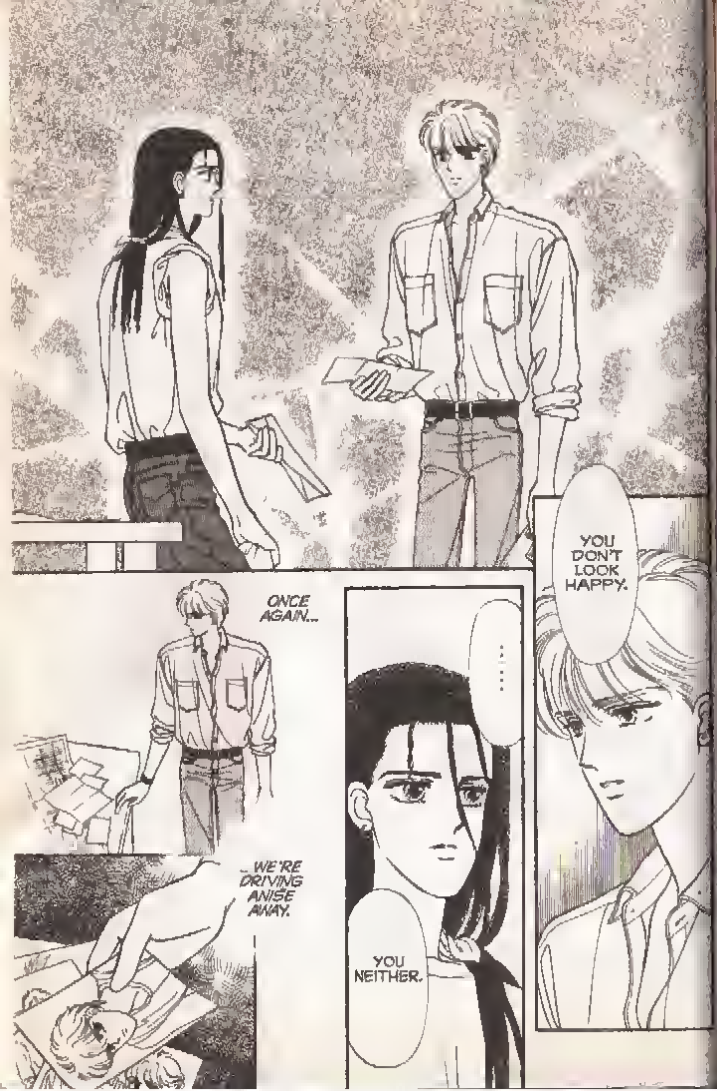

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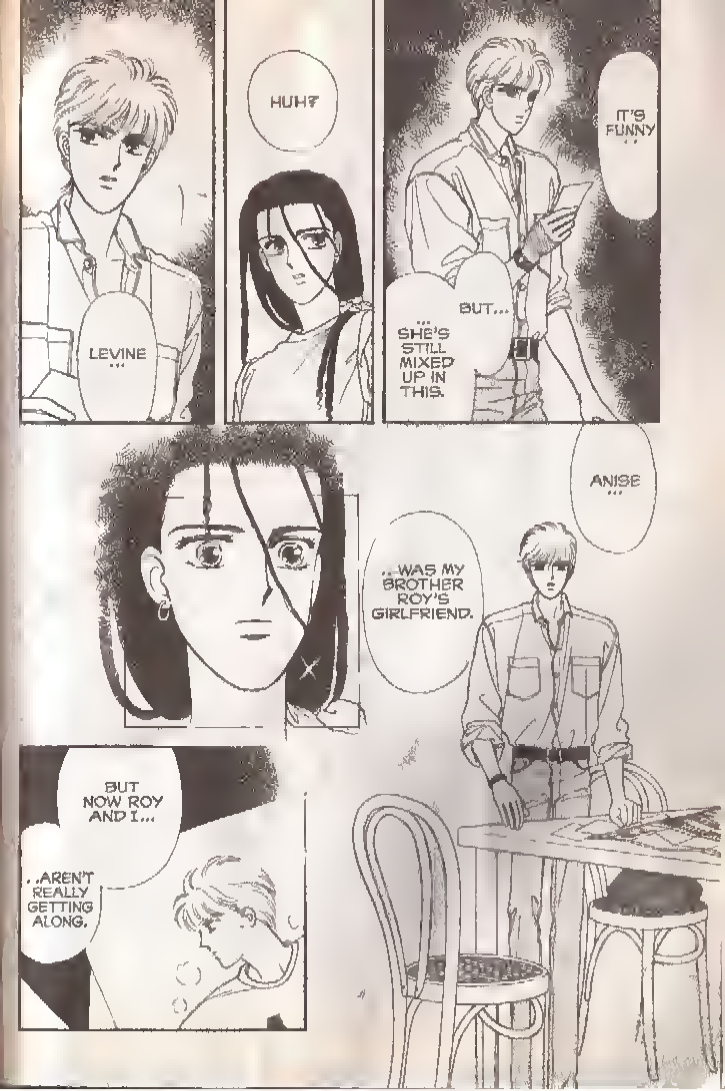

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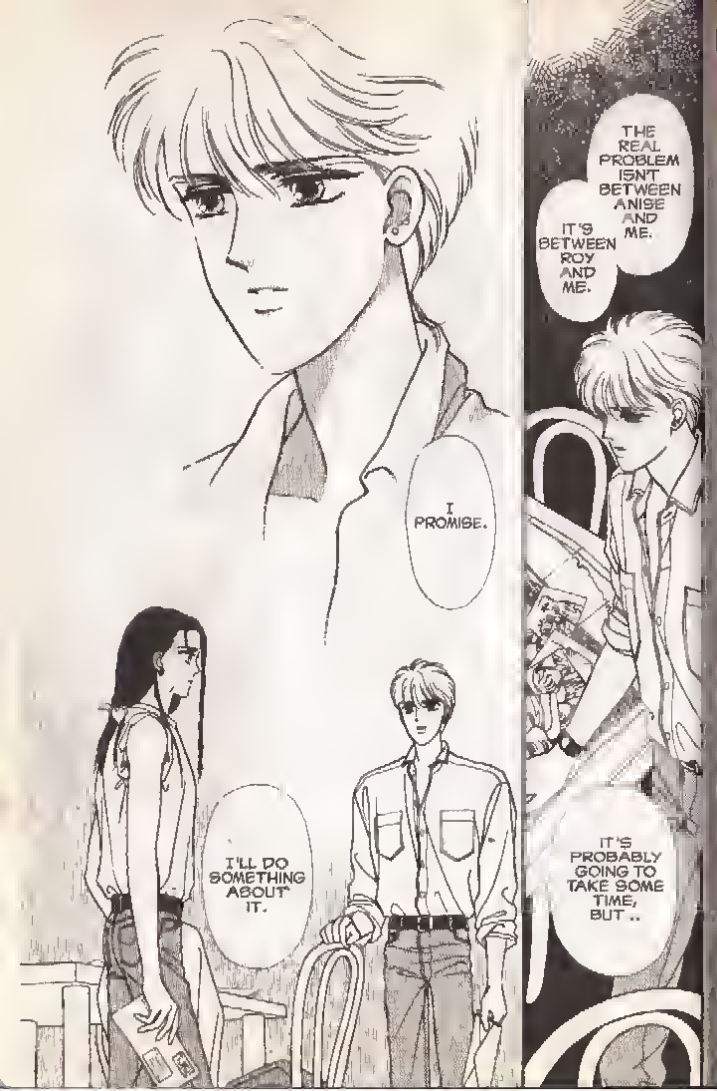
THE REAL PROBLEM ISN'T BETWEEN ANISE AND ME.
IT'S BETWEEN ROY AND ME.
IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME, BUT ..
I PROMISE.
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

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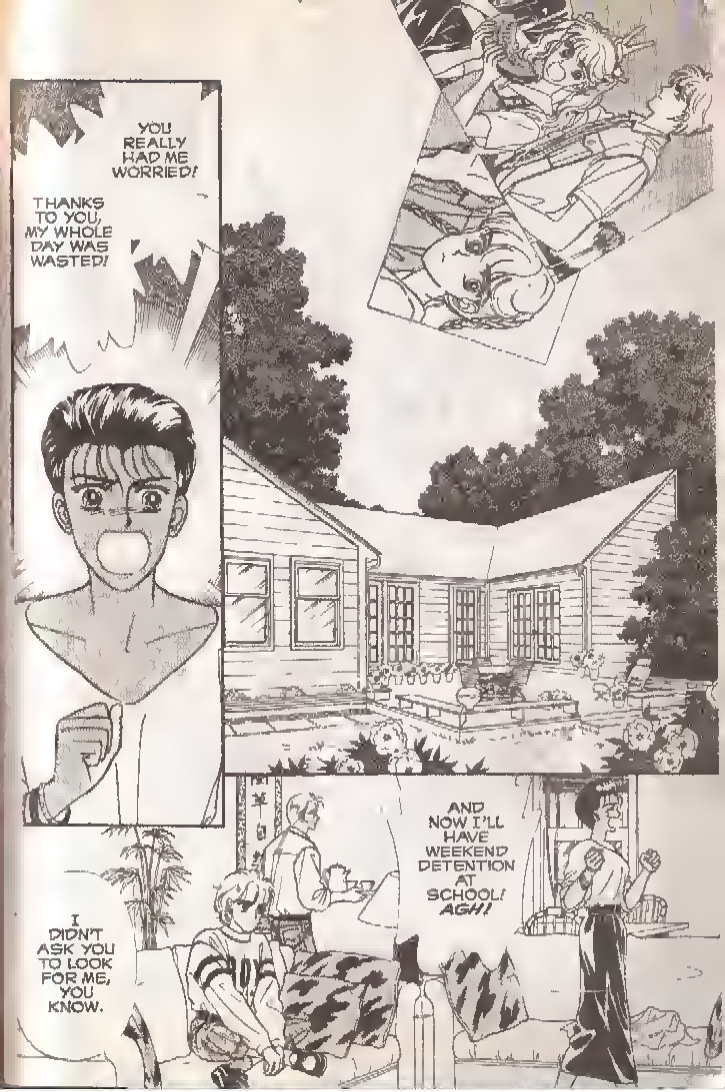
YOU REALLY HAD ME WORRIED!
THANKS TO YOU, MY WHOLE DAY WAS WASTED!
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO LOOK FOR ME, YOU KNOW.
AND NOW I'LL HAVE WEEKEND DETENTION AT SCHOOL! AGH!

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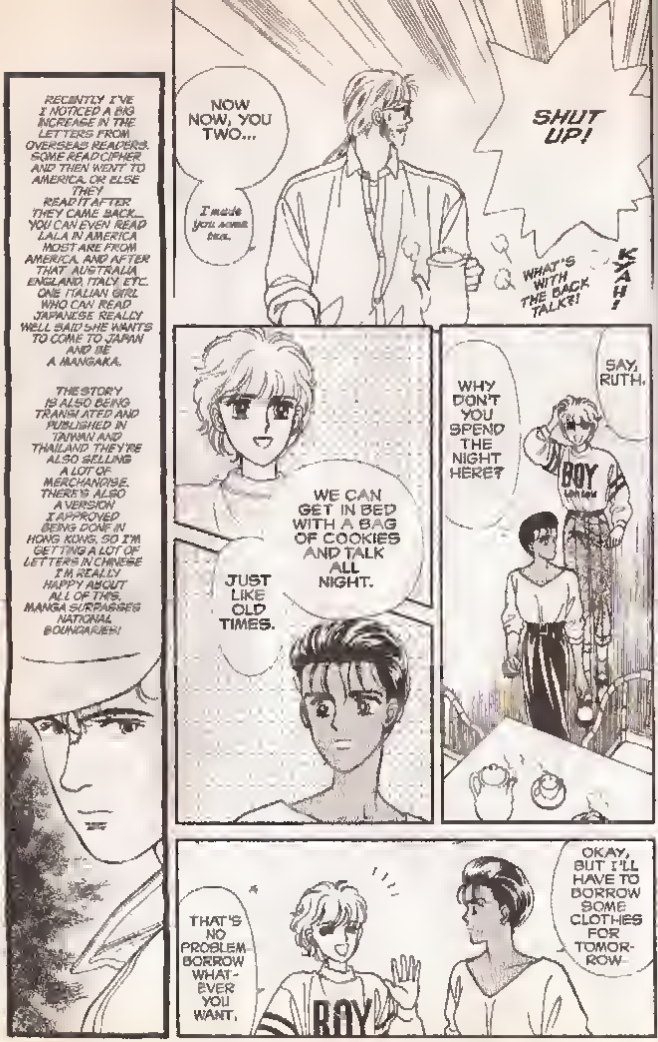
RECENTLY I'VE NOTICED A BIG INCREASE IN THE LETTERS FROM OVERSEAS READERS. SOME READ CIPHER AND THEN WENT TO AMERICA OR ELSE THEY READ IT AFTER THEY CAME BACK... YOU CAN EVEN READ LALA IN AMERICA. MOST ARE FROM AMERICA, AND AFTER THAT, AUSTRALIA, ENGLAND, ITALY, ETC. ONE ITALIAN GIRL WHO CAN READ JAPANESE REALLY WELL SAID SHE WANTS TO COME TO JAPAN AND BE A MANGAKA.
THE STORY IS ALSO BEING TRANSLATED AND PUBLISHED IN TAIWAN AND THAILAND. THEY'RE ALSO SELLING A LOT OF MERCHANDISE. THERE'S ALSO A VERSION I APPROVED BEING DONE IN HONG KONG, SO I'M GETTING A LOT OF LETTERS IN CHINESE. I'M REALLY HAPPY ABOUT ALL OF THIS. MANGA SURPASSES NATIONAL BOUNDARIES!!
NOW NOW, YOU TWO...
I made you some tea.
SHUT UP!
WHAT'S WITH THE BACK TALK?!
KSAH!
WE CAN GET IN BED WITH A BAG OF COOKIES AND TALK ALL NIGHT.
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.
SAY, RUTH,
WHY DON'T YOU SPEND THE NIGHT HERE?
BOY
OKAY, BUT I'LL HAVE TO BORROW SOME CLOTHES FOR TOMORROW.
THAT'S NO PROBLEM. BORROW WHATEVER YOU WANT.
BOY

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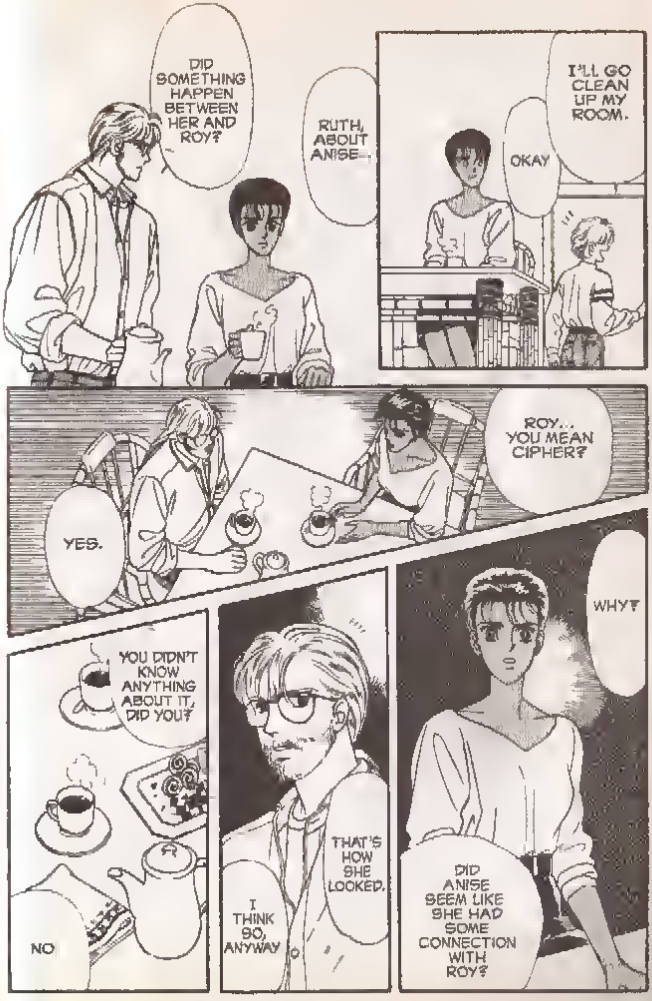
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN HER AND ROY?
RUTH, ABOUT ANISE...
OKAY
I'LL GO CLEAN UP MY ROOM.
ROY... YOU MEAN CIPHER?
YES.
WHY?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, DID YOU?
NO
I THINK SO, ANYWAY
THAT'S HOW SHE LOOKED.
DID ANISE SEEM LIKE SHE HAD SOME CONNECTION WITH ROY?

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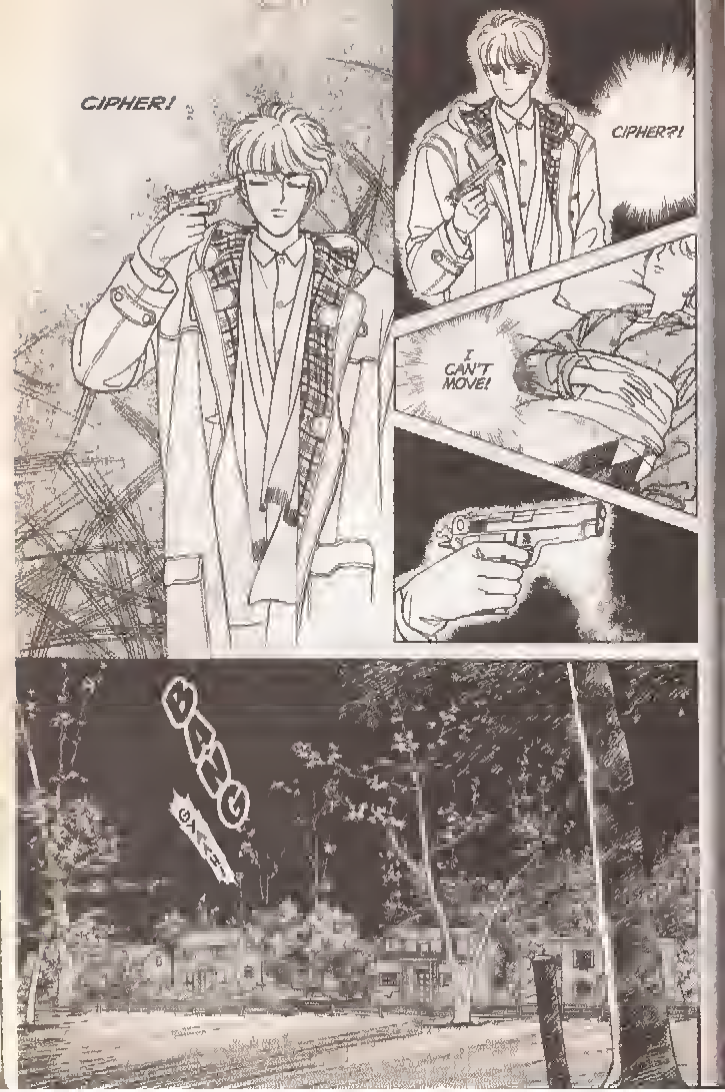

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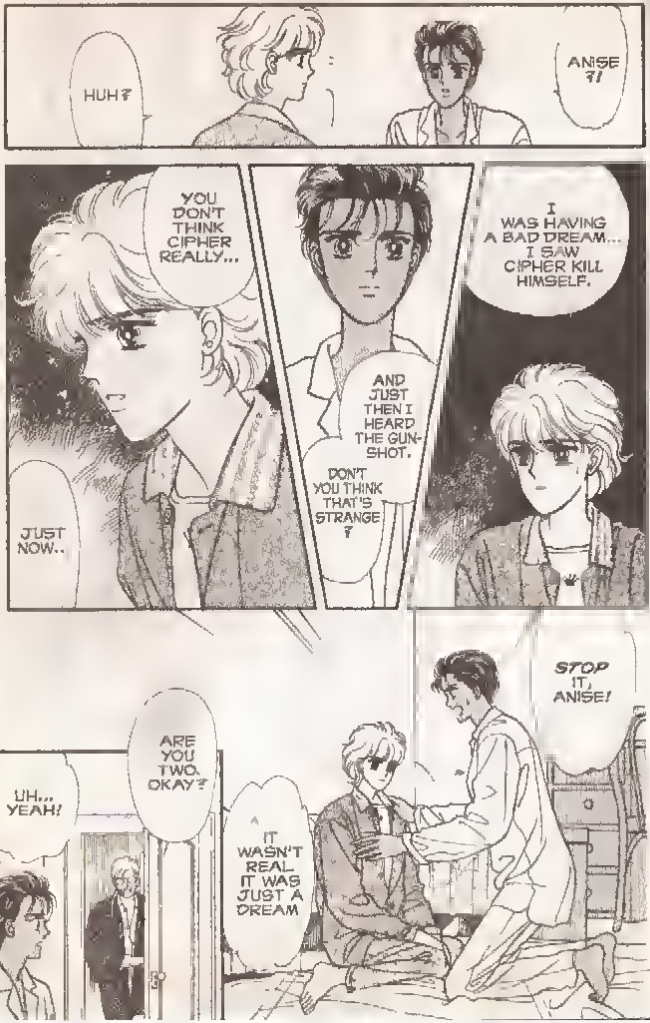
HUH?
ANISE?!
YOU DON'T THINK CIPHER REALLY...
JUST NOW..
AND JUST THEN I HEARD THE GUN-SHOT.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S STRANGE?
I WAS HAVING A BAD DREAM... I SAW CIPHER KILL HIMSELF.
STOP IT, ANISE!
ARE YOU TWO OKAY?
UH... YEAH!
IT WASN'T REAL. IT WAS JUST A DREAM

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THE POLICE WILL BE HERE SOON, BUT YOU'D BETTER CHECK THE LOCKS, JUST IN CASE.
GOOD IDEA.
SLAM
LOCK
LOCK
ANISE.. TELL ME THE TRUTH THIS TIME.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN CIPHER AND SIVA?

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AGH!
CUT THE CRAP!
HAPPEN?
NO, I DON'T THINK.
DON'T I MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU AT ALL?! DO YOU NOT TRUST ME?!
OR IS THERE SOMETHING YOU CAN'T TELL ME ABOUT?! BECAUSE I THINK I CAN GUESS IT!

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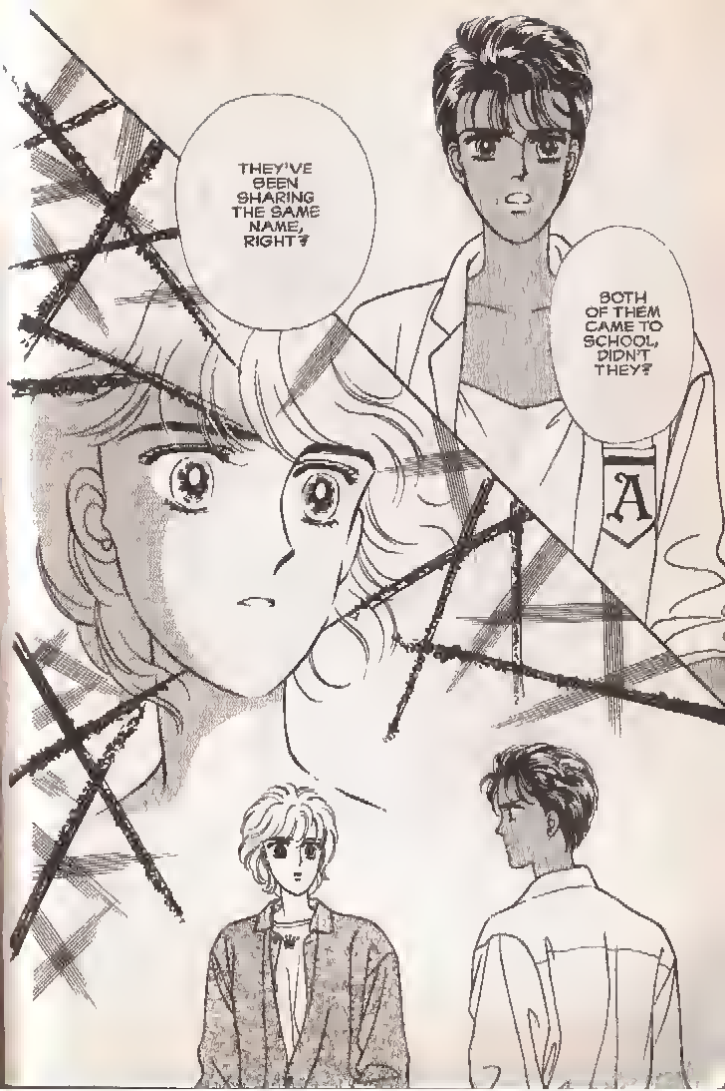

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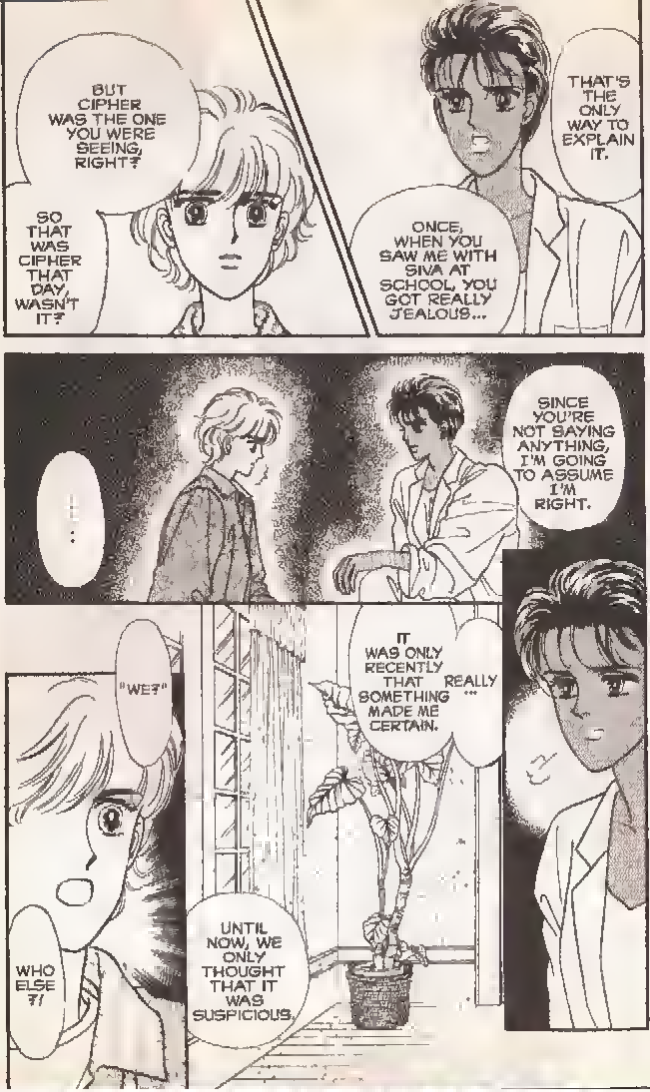
BUT CIPHER WAS THE ONE YOU WERE SEEING, RIGHT?
SO THAT WAS CIPHER THAT DAY, WASN'T IT?
ONCE, WHEN YOU SAW ME WITH SIVA AT SCHOOL, YOU GOT REALLY JEALOUS...
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO EXPLAIN IT.
...
SINCE YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING, I'M GOING TO ASSUME I'M RIGHT.
IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT REALLY SOMETHING ... MADE ME CERTAIN.
"WE?"
WHO ELSE?!
UNTIL NOW, WE ONLY THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SUSPICIOUS.

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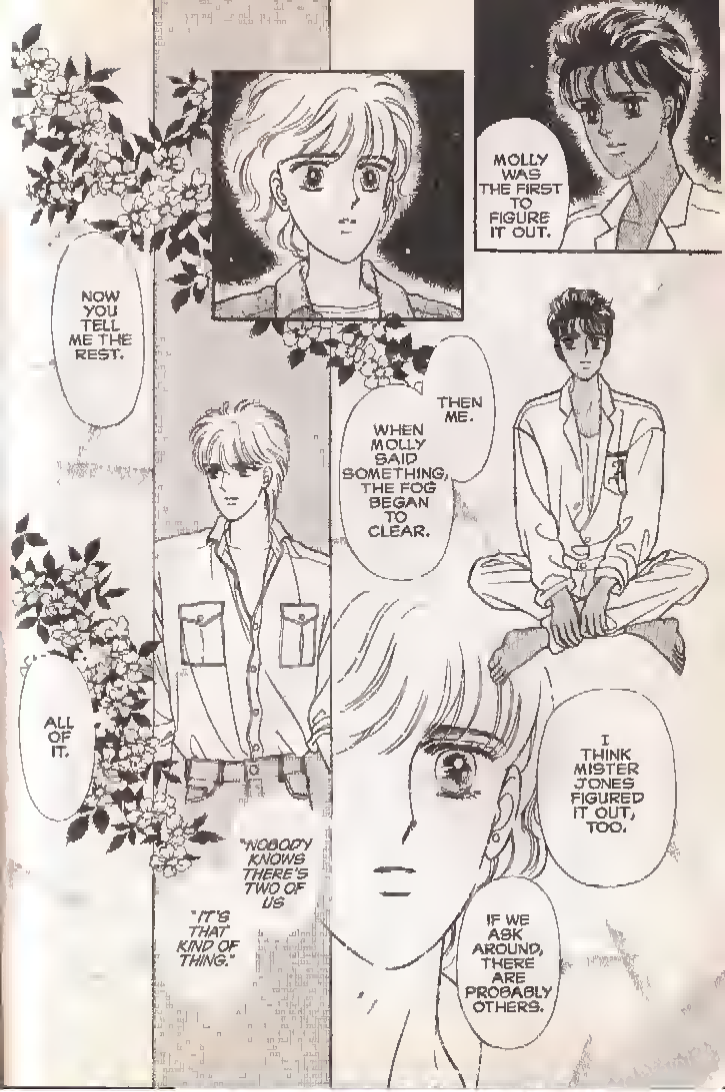
MOLLY WAS THE FIRST TO FIGURE IT OUT.
NOW YOU TELL ME THE REST.
THEN ME.
WHEN MOLLY SAID SOMETHING, THE FOG BEGAN TO CLEAR.
ALL OF IT.
I THINK MISTER JONES FIGURED IT OUT, TOO.
"NOBODY KNOWS THERE'S TWO OF US
"IT'S THAT KIND OF THING."
IF WE ASK AROUND, THERE ARE PROBABLY OTHERS.

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Scene 10: PERSONA
The End

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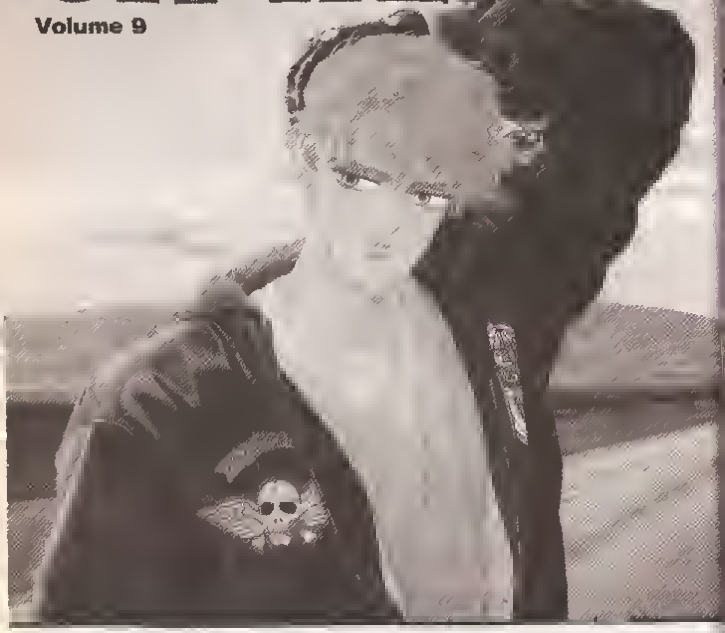
WILL SIVA AND CIPHER BE ABLE TO RECONNECT? FIND OUT IN OCTOBER!

CIPHER

Volume 9



By Minako Narita. In New York, Siva and Anise went to contact Cipher, but neither knows exactly where in Los Angeles he is. Then, when Siva is attacked by a group of punks, Cipher feels a pain in his stomach and knows his brother is in trouble, but now he can't get through! What connection do the attackers have to Alex, Siva's new roommate?

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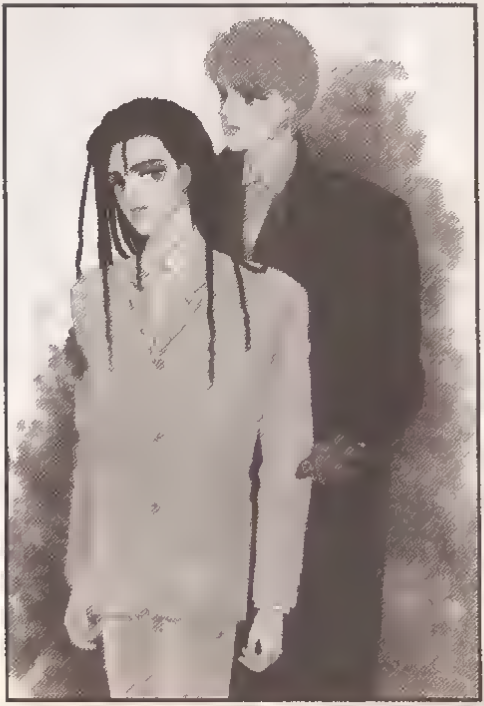
CIPHER

In addition to the many pages of story and art created for *Cipher*, writer and artist Minako Narita has also produced many wonderful individual illustrations over the years featuring the main characters from this beloved series.

From time to time and as space allows, we would like to share some of these images with you. We hope that you enjoy these additional glimpses into the creative vision of this talented illustrator.



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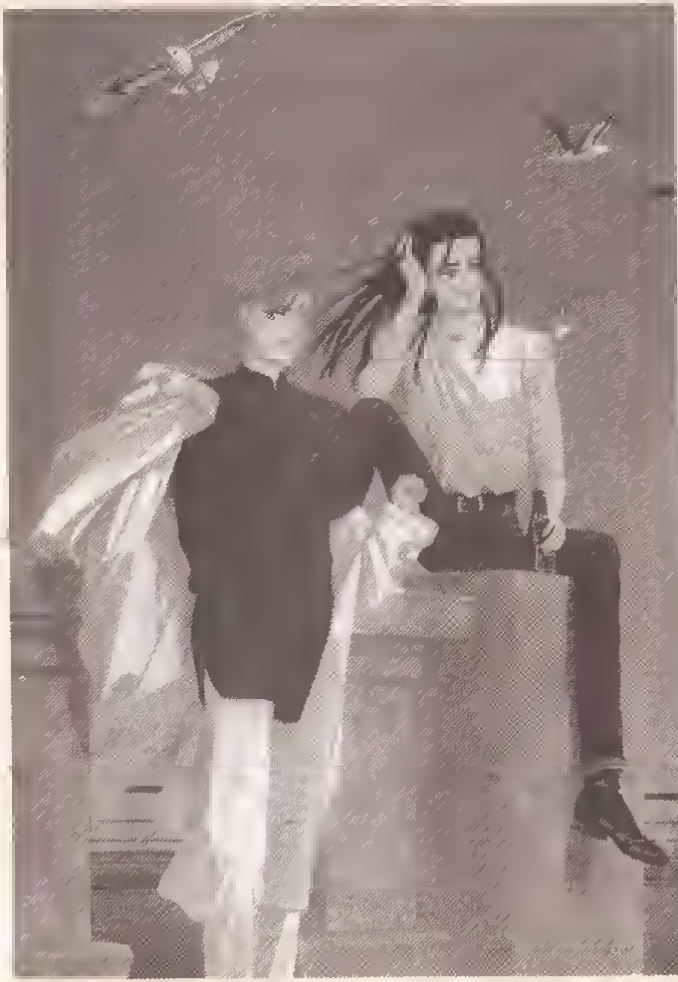

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